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December 18, 2017

ACCEPTED/FILED

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

JAN 19 2018

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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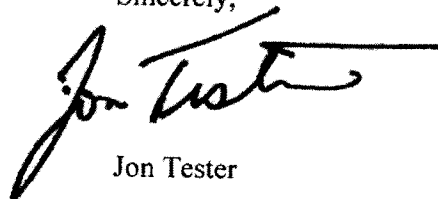
Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take action by the end of the year to ensure that Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) broadband funding is fully funded. Thousands of Montanans are depending on the FCC to follow through on promises to connect rural Americans to high-speed internet services. Access to high-speed Internet is vital to growing rural economies, staying connected with friends and family, and accessing information during emergencies. Fortunately, Montana boasts a handful of rural carriers that are ready to efficiently utilize A-CAM funding to deploy the infrastructure required to deliver high-speed service. That is why we must make sure A-CAM is fully funded each year.

I meet directly with Montana families and businesses on a regular basis, and they consistently tell me about the need for improved high-speed internet access. While Montana is experiencing significant progress, especially in areas served by small carriers, there is still a lot of work left to do. For rural America to truly compete in the 21st Century economy, high-speed internet must be available to all at a reasonable price. We cannot afford to stop short of universal high-speed internet service.

Throughout your confirmation process, you expressed your commitment to closing the divide between urban and rural internet access. As a step toward following through on your promise, please fully fund A-CAM by the end of the year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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