

GLENN GROTHMAN  
6TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



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December 19, 2017

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

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JAN 19 2018

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Pai:

Enclosed please find a letter from 30 rural Wisconsin broadband companies requesting the Commission act by the end of this year and increase funding for participants in the Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) plan. Funding the A-CAM plan as requested will result in significant additional broadband connectivity for the rural consumers in Wisconsin, including many in my district.

I ask that you take into consideration and act with approval to fund the A-CAM plan as requested this year so that more rural Wisconsin residents can fully utilize the opportunities afforded by access to broadband. I also urge you to expeditiously evaluate additional universal service funding for those Wisconsin rural carriers who were not eligible or chose not to participate in the A-CAM plan.

Thank you for your time and dedication to such an important matter.

Sincerely,

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

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December 1, 2017

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are rural telecommunications carriers that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support in Wisconsin. (See Attachment A). We urge the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") to take action, before the end of this year if possible, to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location to enable more rural consumers in Wisconsin to have the broadband connectivity necessary in today's economy.

This additional funding will result in defined and measurable progress in closing the digital divide in the State of Wisconsin. The companies in our State that elected the revised offer of A-CAM support committed to deploy broadband to a specific number of additional locations if further funding were made available by December 31, 2017. We are ready, willing and able to meet those additional broadband deployment obligations. Collectively, funding of \$200/month per location would result in an additional 2,819 locations in Wisconsin having access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service, while 987 locations would newly have access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on "reasonable request" in Wisconsin would decrease by 78% percent, or 1,938, if funding is increased – meaning that the carriers serving those customers will have a concrete obligation to deploy broadband to them.

There is no need for delay. The mechanism to distribute additional funds to advance broadband deployment is already in place. The additional funding will be targeted to high-cost census blocks that are not served by unsubsidized competitors where, absent support, it is not economically feasible to extend broadband service. We are already upgrading network infrastructure in our communities and are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional rural consumers. If we receive additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

Allocating this additional funding to further extend broadband in our communities will result in more far reaching economic and social benefits. Residents of rural Wisconsin have told us they are reluctant to expand their businesses because of the limited broadband services available to them. Further extending the reach of broadband will enable more children in our communities to do their homework at home, allow our seniors to age in place, and result in healthcare savings for the chronically ill who can be remotely monitored at

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
December 1, 2017  
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home. With upgraded service to A-CAM locations, rural Wisconsin students will be able to more readily access a wider variety of content such as video streaming of live classes, documentaries and other educational programs.

We urge the Commission to act by the end of this year to allocate additional funding to carry out its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin A-CAM Companies

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Brendan Carr

Attachment A

**Attachment A**  
**Wisconsin A-CAM Companies**

Amery Telcom, Inc.  
Badger Telecom  
Black Earth Telephone Company  
Bonduel Telephone Company  
Bruce Telephone Company  
Burlington, Brighton, & Wheatland Telephone Company  
Central State Telephone Company  
Clear Lake Telephone Company  
Coon Valley Farmers Telephone Company, Inc.  
Dickeyville Telephone  
Eastcoast Telecom  
Farmers Independent Telephone Company  
Farmers Telephone Company  
Grantland Telecom  
Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc.  
Mid-Plains Telephone  
Midway Telephone Company  
Mosinee Telephone Company  
Mt. Vernon Telephone Company  
Riverside Telecom  
Scandinavia Telephone Company  
Somerset Telephone Company  
Southeast Telephone Company of Wisconsin  
State Long Distance Telephone Company  
Stockbridge & Sherwood Telephone Company  
Tenney Telephone Company  
Union Telephone Company  
UTELCO  
Waunakee Telephone Company  
Wittenberg Telephone Company