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October 17, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply to comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund WC Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

In reply to comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council on September 19, 2019.

The Hocking Hills region welcomes over 4.5 million visitors each year. Our tourism industry is one of the primary economic engines in Hocking County. One in 7 jobs here depend on a healthy tourism economy.

The lack of broadband coverage throughout this region is a serious impediment to a sustainable tourism economy and overall economic development in Hocking County. Travelers expect to have mobile service and high-speed internet connectivity when they travel just as they do at home. This is not a luxury. It is an absolute necessity.

Our tourism businesses, especially lodging businesses, are at a competitive disadvantage when they are unable to provide their guests the communication services they require. Communications infrastructure needs to be recognized as a service as important as other utilities like electricity and water.

Any assistance you can provide our residents, business owners and guests so they all have the critical communication services they require to participate and be successful in this global economy would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Karen Raymore*  
Karen Raymore, CDME  
Executive Director