

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIGITAL COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION
CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

1088
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

December 14, 2017

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(419) 422-7791

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

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

Enclosed please find a letter from nine rural Ohio broadband providers requesting that the Commission 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 Ohio.

I ask that you take into consideration and act with approval to fund the A-CAM plan as requested so that additional rural Ohio residents can fully utilize the opportunities afforded by access to broadband. I also urge you to expeditiously evaluate other universal service funding for those Ohio rural carriers that are not participating in the A-CAM plan.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this matter. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Rachel Schwegman from Representative Latta's staff at (202) 225-6405 or rachel.schwegman@mail.house.gov.

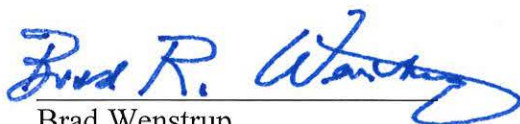
Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

December 8, 2017

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are nine Ohio rural telecommunications carriers that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support in January of this year. We are writing to urge the Commission to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location before December 31st, 2017. Doing so would allow us to further extend broadband in our communities, which would provide far reaching economic and social benefits to rural consumers in our State.

When we accepted A-CAM support we 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. Additional funding of \$200/month per location would result in a 10.2% increase in the number of rural locations in Ohio having access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service and a 10.2% increase in the number of rural locations that would have access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on "reasonable request" in Ohio would decrease by 89 percent if funding were increased to this level.

Access to broadband is critical to economic growth and productivity in rural areas. Further extending the reach of broadband in Ohio 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 home. Local government leaders and Chambers of Commerce agree that broadband provides significant economic growth and opportunities. One Ohio county executive has stated that the lack of high-speed broadband is the number one challenge his county faces in recruiting businesses and retaining residents. There are economic strategies under way to attract businesses and industries to our rural areas. We believe that additional A-CAM support would significantly assist with these endeavors and would contribute greatly to the education and professional development of our local workforces.

The time for the Commission to act is now. The mechanism to distribute additional funds is already in place. We are already upgrading network infrastructure in our communities and are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional customers. If we receive

Ms. Marlene Dortch
December 8, 2017
Page 2

additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

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 of up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

The Ohio A-CAM Companies

Arcadia Telephone Company
Continental Telephone Company
Pattersonville Telephone Company
Sycamore Telephone Company
Ridgeville Telephone Company

Telephone Service Company
Little Miami Communications
Oakwood Telephone Company
Vanlue Telephone Company

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



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 9, 2018

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

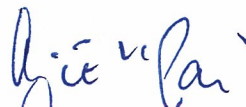
Thank you for your letter on the importance of connecting additional rural consumers in Ohio to high-speed broadband. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of our proceeding on the Connect America Fund and considered as part of the Commission's review.

In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in urban areas. A key way to reach this goal is by updating the high-cost universal service program to encourage cooperatives and other small, rural carriers to build more online infrastructure.

We need more deployment in sparsely populated rural areas if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. But I've heard from community leaders, Congress, and carriers that insufficient, unpredictable funding has kept them from reaching this goal. That is why I recently shared with my fellow commissioners an order that would promote more high-speed broadband deployment in rural areas. If adopted, it would provide over \$500 million in additional funding for cooperatives and small rural carriers—including those participating in the Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) plan. And it seeks public input on both further increasing support to current A-CAM recipients and on giving legacy rate-of-return carriers a new chance to elect model-based support. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the accompanying reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path, helping to ensure that every American can benefit from the digital revolution.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Congressman, hope all's well! Look forward to catching up sometime.



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 9, 2018

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Ajit V. Pai



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February 9, 2018

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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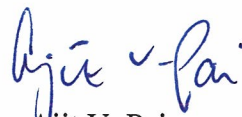
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