12217 Milan Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio

February 21, 2018

Members

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, DC

Dear FCC Members,

I write as the former chair of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the US House of Representatives of the Committee on Government Oversight. The FCC’s Proposed Rulemaking to “Bridge the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers” annihilates the 2016 Lifeline Order and would deprive as many as one million low income Ohioans of digital equity, create a new category of digitally excluded persons and represent a complete abandonment of the spirit of the FCC Act of 1934 that licensees (in this case nextgen cable and broadband companies) serve in the “public interest, convenience and necessity.”

Your proposed rule would cast millions of Americans into the chasm of the digital divide. You are unwittingly, and inevitably, opening up a new area of 21st century discrimination which should yield the FCC a rebuke for violating the 14th Amendment rights of low income persons to equal protection of the law.

An unintended consequence of such an injustice will be for states to seek to provide their own broadband service to all their citizens, as a matter of economic progress, and in order to break the broadband monopolies of which the Commission seems so fond. I am prepared to bring just such a plan forward in Ohio.

The FCC cannot remedy digital redlining through wishful thinking regarding infrastructure investment. You can only remedy it through assuring the provision of and access to for broadband internet for low-income Americans. I urge you in the strongest terms to reject the proposed rulemaking in order to rescue whatever shred of credibility may reside in this particular Commission.

Sincerely,

ss/Dennis J. Kucinich,

Member of Congress 1997-2013

Former Chair of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee,

Committee on Government Oversight