



March 15, 2018

**Via ECFS**

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

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte**

**WT Docket No. 17-79:** *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment;*

**WT Docket No. 15-180:** *Revising the Historic Preservation Review Process for Wireless Facility Deployment;*

**WC Docket No. 17-84:** *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*

Dear Chairman Pai:

Streamlined infrastructure reform is critical to serving consumers in low density, hard-to-reach areas. For this reason, Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. supports the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") work to address barriers to mobile broadband deployment. We urge the FCC to move quickly to help bridge the digital divide in rural America.

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. currently serves consumers in rural and remote areas, including Horry and Georgetown County, but holds spectrum in several other rural counties and is looking at deployment options. The FCC's proposed changes will spur investment and increase certainty as non-nationwide carriers work to preserve and expand service in the most challenging locales in the United States. With the move towards next-generation technologies, the time is ripe to adopt streamlined infrastructure policies that promote investment, expedite processes, and remove red tape. It is imperative that the FCC take immediate action to adopt its proposals to reduce and eliminate burdensome deployment procedures for all stakeholders.

The Commission's commitment to reforming mobile broadband infrastructure deployment processes is shared by nationwide, rural, and regional carriers alike. Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. remains eager for continued collaboration with the Commission, Congress, Tribes, and states to streamline and update infrastructure siting policies that will help close the digital divide.

This letter is being filed electronically with your office pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Brent D. Groome*

Brent D. Groome  
Chief Exec. Marketing, Economic and Strategic Initiatives

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