

PAM MARSH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 5
SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 5, 2018

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

Dear Commissioner Pai:

As Members of the Oregon Legislature we write to you on behalf of those Oregonians, particularly those living in rural communities, who do not have access to fast, reliable broadband service. Rural families and communities that are lacking access to high speed internet suffer from an absence of education, information, health services, economic development, and technology that hinder growth and development at a variety of levels.

Oregon has and will continue to take steps to address the digital divide. The Rural Telecommunications Congress commissioned a study of broadband investment and activity, and in May 2016 issued a report entitled the Fifty States of Broadband, which ranked Oregon number three in the nation for broadband adoption. Though Oregon continues to be a leader in the adoption and utilization of broadband technologies compared to other states, there are significant variances in the rates of adoption between regions and demographic groups. Notably adoption rates are notably lower in Eastern Oregon and in rural areas as compared to the urban areas of the state. We hope you will help advance and support policies that will bring rural broadband adoption levels in line with urban counterparts.

The long-term success of TV white space technology (TVWS) relies on consistent access to spectrum. We ask that sufficient spectrum capacity be reserved for unlicensed use to support the growth of TVWS technology in rural communities.

If you do so, we believe this will let the private sector and companies like Microsoft work on implementing new technologies that have the ability to bring reliable and affordable broadband into rural communities. The impact on farms, schools, small businesses, health providers and entire communities would be transformative.

By allowing the private sector to access white spaces and develop technological advances in rural broadband, we can create new opportunities and open new markets for a whole segment of our populace whose talents and energy will be further enhanced with access to broadband.

The digital divide continues to exist in Oregon and may well be contributing to the economic divide that also exists between urban and rural areas of the state. It is economically and educationally imperative that you act on behalf of those thousands of Oregonians and those millions of Americans who deserve access to the same opportunity that broadband affords.

Thank you for considering this matter and we welcome an opportunity to discuss this with you further.

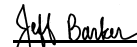
Regards,



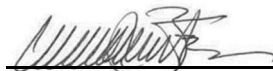
Representative Pam Marsh
House District 5



Senator Herman Baertschiger Jr.
Senate District 2



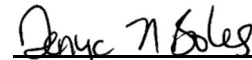
Representative Jeff Barker
House District 28




Senator Cliff Bentz
Senate District 30



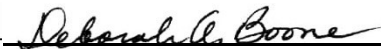
Senator Lee Beyer
Senate District 6



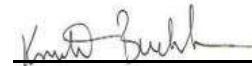
Representative
Denyc Boles
House District 19



Representative Daniel Bonham
House District 59



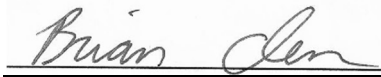
Representative Deborah Boone
House District 32



Representative Knute Buehler
House District 54



Representative Janelle Bynum
House District 51



Representative Brian Clem
House District 21



Representative Margaret Doherty
House District 35



Representative Paul Evans
House District 20



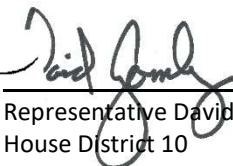
Representative Lynn Findley
House District 60



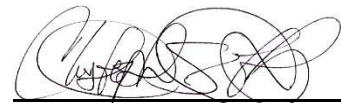
Senator Lew Frederick
Senate District 22



Senator Sara Gelser
Senate District 8



Representative David Gomberg
House District 10



Representative Chris Gorsek
House District 49



Senator Bill Hansell
Senate District 29



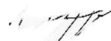
Senator Dallas Heard
Senate District 1



Representative Jeff Helfrich
House District 52



Representative Ken Helm
House District 34



Representative Diego Hernandez
House District 47



Representative Paul Holvey
House District 8



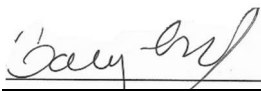
Representative Bill Kennemer
House District 39



Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
House District 46




Senator Tim Knopp
Senate District 27



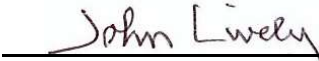
Representative Gary Leif
House District 2



Senator Dennis Linthicum
Senate District 28



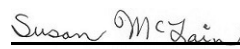
Representative Rick Lewis
House District 18



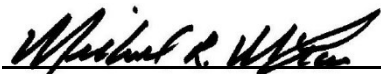
Representative John Lively
House District 12



Representative Sheri Malstrom
House District 27



Representative Susan McLain
House District 29



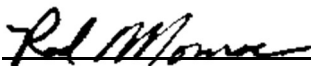
Representative Mike McLane
House District 55



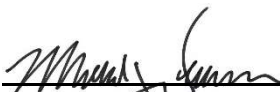
Senator James Marning
Senate District 7



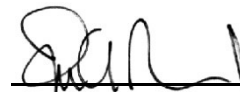
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senate District 25



Senator Rod Monroe
Senate District 24



Representative Mike Nearman
House District 23



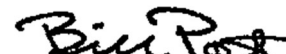
Representative Rob Nösse
House District 42




Senator Alan Olsen
Senate District 20




Representative Carla Piluso
House District 50



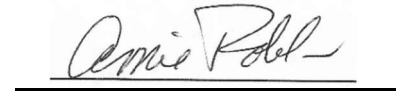
Representative Bill Post
House District 25




Representative Jeff Reardon
House District 48




Representative E. Werner Reschke
House District 56



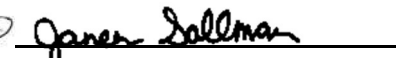
Senator Arnie Roblan
Senate District 5



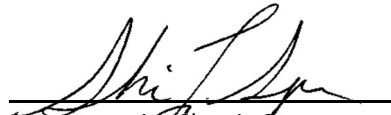
Representative Tawna D. Sanchez
House District 43



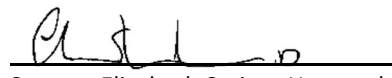
Representative David Brock Smith
House District 1



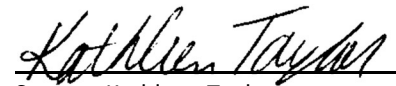
Representative Janeen A. Sollman
House District 30



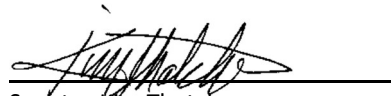
Representative Sherrie Sprenger
House District 17



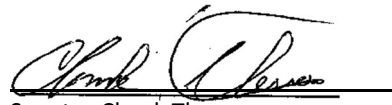
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senate District 17



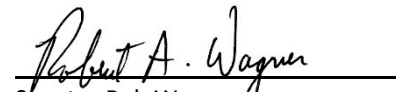
Senator Kathleen Taylor
Senate District 21



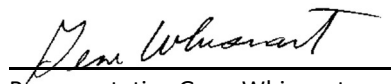
Senator Kim Thatcher
Senate District 13



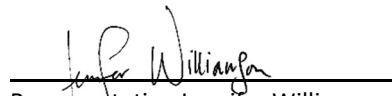
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Senate District 26



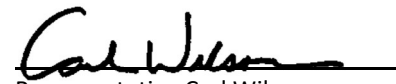
Senator Rob Wagner
Senate District 19



Representative Gene Whisnant
House District 53



Representative Jennifer Williamson
House District 36



Representative Carl Wilson
House District 3