

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 19, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write on a matter of great importance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose access to critical federal broadband funding through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) will soon be considered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC has issued a draft order that it intends to consider at its January 30, 2018 open meeting. In this order, the FCC proposes to deny the petition filed with the FCC on April 19, 2017, by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Recently, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf informed us that he has implemented a formal program under his authority and oversight dedicated to expanding the availability of modern broadband access throughout the Commonwealth, including many rural areas that currently lack broadband access. Under this program, the Governor has established a state broadband office charged exclusively with accelerating the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas within the Commonwealth. Most importantly, the Governor is committed to both the funding and the process to achieve this goal by seeking to match the at-risk CAF II funding that the Commonwealth has requested should be dedicated to Pennsylvania, and by procuring the services of the external broadband specialists that aided in the development of New York's successful broadband program. This will ensure that Pennsylvania has the tools necessary to accomplish its charge in a manner that abides by the FCC's goals and parameters.

Considering this new information, we strongly support the Commonwealth's new efforts to ensure the universal availability of broadband within Pennsylvania. Accordingly, we request that the FCC consider these new funding and resource commitments before finalizing any decision regarding the State's pending request. By doing so, the FCC will provide the State with the time necessary to file a new or amended petition that will outline its enhanced commitments, which will include meeting all FCC requirements, thereby ensuring a technology-neutral, market-based, and cost-effective broadband program.

A state-federal partnership consistent with recent FCC precedent will allow Pennsylvania the opportunity to work with the FCC to maximize the funding opportunities and efficiently utilize scarce CAF II funding. Furthermore, this partnership would facilitate the deployment of broadband services in unserved areas more quickly than the FCC's standalone effort. This will

better serve the public interest and promote the FCC's goal of accelerating broadband deployment to designated areas that lack access.

We represent diverse constituents from Pennsylvania's cities, small towns, rural and suburban areas, and we strongly believe that ensuring access to high-speed Internet for everyone, no matter where they live, is critical for expanding opportunity and promoting economic growth. We remain in agreement that Pennsylvanians should see the benefits of the CAF II funds that were originally designated for them. In light of the Governor's commitment to leveraging federal funds to promote broadband access across Pennsylvania, we urge you to reconsider acting on the Commonwealth's pending petition on January 30 and allow Pennsylvania an opportunity to file a revised plan with the FCC that will aid the State in retaining access to the \$139.6 million in declined CAF II funding for crucial investments in broadband deployment.

Thank you for your thoughtful engagement on this important issue. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mike Doyle
United States Representative



Ryan A. Costello
United States Representative



Robert A. Brady
United States Representative



Dwight E. Evans
United States Representative



Brendan F. Boyle
United States Representative



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

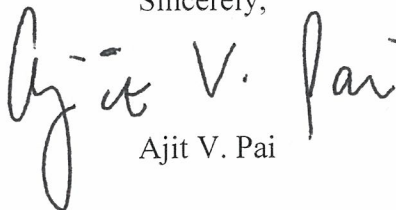
In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in urban areas. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

I agree with you that far too many rural Pennsylvanians lack broadband access, and I applaud recent state efforts to close the digital divide throughout the Commonwealth. We structured the CAF Phase II auction so states are able to provide matching funds toward broadband deployment over and above the federal funding. And Pennsylvania's Broadband Investment Incentive Program does just this, increasing the incentive for providers to invest in Pennsylvania and bring new service to those without—likely increasing the quality of service as well as the federal funding for rural Pennsylvania.

I should also note that the CAF Phase II auction is not the only opportunity to ensure broadband reaches all Pennsylvanians. Next year, we plan to move on to the Remote Areas Fund for those areas still without high-speed broadband—and we will ensure that any funding originally intended for rural Pennsylvania will be available to build there in that second auction.

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

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Robert A. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

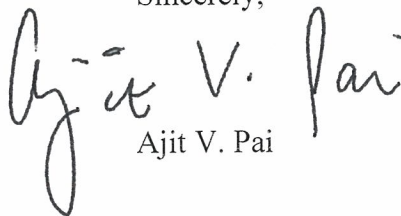
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Dwight Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
1105 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

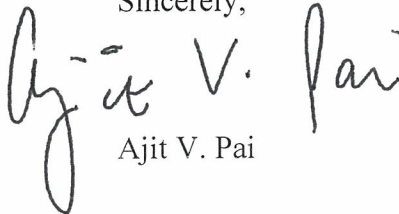
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

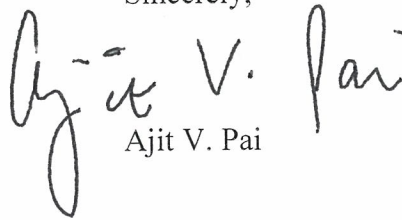
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing broadband deployment in rural Pennsylvania through the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

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Ajit V. Pai