



July 5, 2018

Re: WC Docket Nos. 18-143, 10-90 and 14-58; FCC 18-57

**Proposed Rule by FCC on 06/13/2018 ID: FCC-2018-0212-0002**

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>

Dear Chairman:

As a community-based organization that provides direct vital services to the people of Puerto Rico and has been instrumental in providing aid in the aftermath of the hurricanes, I submit these comments for consideration by the Commission regarding the implementation of **Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund**.

The Commission has publicly stated it recognizes the need for a longer-term solution to “rebuild, improve and expand service in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands” in the wake of the devastation of communication networks. The Commission proposes to dedicate funding specifically to “fixed and mobile providers” to provide critical “fixed voice and broadband services.”

On behalf of the people residing on these islands, I hope you will consider the following. It is undeniable that these islands need and deserve reliable communication systems that can withstand natural disasters and prevent our fellow countryman from ever suffering such devastation again.

It is imperative that the FCC understands that any long-term investment in the communications infrastructure of Puerto Rico **must** include satellite technology. Not only must satellite technology be included, it must be **a priority** in any restoration funding efforts. Satellite broadband was the only reliable communications system in the aftermath of the hurricanes and must be fully implemented across the island in order to build a truly resilient and connected Puerto Rico. The FCC **must provide restoration funding** to existing **local telecommunications satellite based facilities** in order that they can become world class facilities that can take full advantage of emerging satellite technologies that promise to offer a cost effective solution for the islands. We have done it for our community radio station Radio Casa Pueblo 1020AM! Not only we are better prepared for future natural events, it is currently

helping us to manage frequent interruptions with traditional communication services in the mountain area.

Satellite technology is currently being utilized with great success across the continental United States, even made available through FCC subsidies to the most remote and un-serviced locations. Advances in technology now offer satellite systems that have the ability to provide Puerto Rico with the latest technology and ever-increasing broadband speeds.

After experiencing the trauma that resulted from being isolated with no communication post-Hurricane Maria, we are committed to making satellite broadband a reality and accessible throughout Puerto Rico. Working with telecom industry leaders, we are collaborating in the newly formed **Centros de Preparacion y Respuesta (CPR)**, a satellite connected network of member organizations across Puerto Rico. Through CPR, organizations such as ours will have a reliable communications system to ensure the residents the communities we serve will remain connected to each other, to emergency services, to community organizations such as schools, hospitals, fire departments, government and more – regardless of storm or emergency severity. This will ensure that communities across the island, no matter how remote, have access to all of the critical care services they need, including food, shelter, medical services, and emergency responders, at times of crisis.

As one of the organizations with boots on the ground that functioned through the devastation and has the knowledge of what our citizens need, I hope you will take seriously our call for investments in satellite broadband technology.

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Puerto Rico during this difficult time and for your consideration of our remarks. Should you have any questions or wish to speak further, please contact us at [casapueblodeadjuntas@gmail.com](mailto:casapueblodeadjuntas@gmail.com) or at 787.829.4842.

Sincerely,



Arturo Massol, Ph.D.  
Co-Director Casa Pueblo