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*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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August 2, 2016

**VIA EFCS**

Tom Wheeler, FCC Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 16-143, Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment; WC Docket No. 15-247, Investigation of Certain Price Cap Local Exchange Carrier Business Data Services Tariff Pricing Plans; WC Docket No. 05-25, Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers; RM-10593, AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services.

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your continuing efforts to improve both wireline and wireless broadband access in rural America and to promote competitive broadband markets. Today, we write to emphasize the importance of ensuring that if a final rule in the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on business data services is adopted it be based on accurate industry data and promotes strong continued investment in broadband infrastructure.

We appreciate the Commission's goal – to incentivize telecommunications providers to build and invest in networks while enhancing competition among the various providers of business data services. As you work toward a final rule, it is especially important for rural states like ours that the Commission use all the available data, including the data submitted earlier this year by the major cable operators, to both measure competitive markets accurately and ensure that the regulations for noncompetitive markets are based on the real cost to provide service. Rural communities depend on robust investments in business data services to connect small businesses and anchor institutions, support wireless data service, and enable economic development. Without these investments, our rural constituents will face significant challenges in accessing the 21st century global economy.

We strongly believe that good decisions can only be made with good information and accurate data. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission