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Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment (WT Docket No. 17-79)

Dear Commissioner Carr,

Mobile technology breathes opportunity – the opportunity to connect, to learn, to work, to entertain, to get involved in community, and so much more. Unfortunately, not everyone benefits from those opportunities because they're on the wrong side of the digital divide. Thank you for your efforts to bridge the divide and expand access and therefore opportunity.

I'm writing you today to talk specifically about the next generation of mobile, 5G. These networks and the revolutionary technologies they'll enable stand to power more inclusive communities – connecting people to opportunities and services that may not have otherwise been available to them and position them for success. I strongly urge you to continue pursuing common-sense rulemakings that will bring 5G and a new wave of opportunity to communities regardless of their location.

From my vantage point as a teacher and administrator, a Florence School District One Board Member and a past Chair of the SC Black Caucus of School Board Members a huge area of opportunity with 5G is in our schools. Kids are growing up in a digital age and need to be prepared to thrive in it. They need a solid foundation in STEM curriculum, and their learning should not be confined to their classroom walls. A 5G platform and the technology that's enabled by it will be a launching pad that will introduce them to new people, skills, and experiences so they can learn from the best, prepare for the future, and "go to" significant places and events.

But in order for 5G to deliver on those expectations, the right network infrastructure must be in place. This infrastructure includes new and old components ranging from small cells to traditional towers. Yet, outdated rules from all levels of government will slow the process down and delay the benefits of 5G. With that in mind, the question that regulators and policymakers should be asking is what can I do to speed it up?

At the end of the day, the race to 5G is global. South Carolina wins if the U.S. wins. So instead of each city or state for itself, we should be working towards aligned, streamlined frameworks that benefit us all. If we take that approach, investment will more easily flow from one community to the next, and smaller, rural communities in South Carolina, for example, won't be stuck in line as long while larger communities elsewhere monopolize resources.

5G will present exciting opportunities for South Carolina and its students. With proper streamlining and preparedness, they can experience its benefits sooner rather than later.

Regards,



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