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Committees:
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SC Legislative Black Caucus,
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August 24, 2018

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

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

Dear Commissioner Carr:

On behalf of my constituents in York County, South Carolina, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to continue working to support full deployment of 5G wireless networks. By removing barriers to the placement of 5G small cell antennas, you can help provide our communities with much-needed new wireless infrastructure and technology.

As you well know, many of the current local permitting policies regarding wireless infrastructure, written to accommodate cell towers, do not work well for small cell antennas. A patchwork system of town-to-town, state-to-state rules slows the approval of small cell installations and delays the deployment of 5G. We need a national framework with guardrails to streamline the path forward to our wireless future.

I am convinced it is extremely important for all South Carolina communities to gain access to 5G, but especially those located outside of the urban areas of our state. Rural areas in South Carolina and nationwide, frequently have limited access to high-speed broadband and wireless service compared to their metropolitan counterparts. This puts them at a significant disadvantage in key areas such as medical care, job creation, and especially education.

Our rural school districts need access to 5G wireless. This cutting-edge technology will enable them to better educate students in multiple ways. 5G will allow teachers and students to take virtual field trips to museums, libraries, and distant locations without ever leaving the classroom. Using 5G, teachers will be able to tailor lessons to each individual learner, providing them with online help to ensure that every student reaches his or her full educational potential.

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With so many future jobs dependent on technology, it is essential that all our children have access to the internet and online learning tools. Giving rural schools access to 5G will make a tremendous difference in the lives of students, enhancing their job satisfaction, productivity, and earning potential throughout their working careers.

I appreciate the work the FCC has done thus far to streamline small cell permitting and speed the deployment of 5G wireless. Please continue to address the barriers that stand in the way of widespread access to this important technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Richard C. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "K".

John Richard C. King

JRCK/afc/2018aug24-1