

September 19, 2018

Via Electronic Filing

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; Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Siting Policies, WT Docket No. 16-421

Dear Commissioner Carr:

We write to you today as individual County Commissioners of Carbon County, Montana. Carbon County has a total population of approximately 10,000. Once named for the abundant amounts of coal in the county's geographic area of over 2,000 square miles, today it has become an area dependent on its agriculture and tourism industries. Residents and tourists alike take advantage of our endless opportunities for hiking, camping, skiing, and wildlife viewing.

These industries stand to benefit from reliable connectivity. New technologies, such as connected sensors and drones are transforming the way farmers and ranchers are able to monitor the health of livestock and crops. Wireless broadband connectivity enables new visitor experiences and improved navigation applications. Indeed, wireless broadband service has the ability to transform every aspect of a community – including its education, healthcare, work force, safety, and local economy. Enhanced connectivity has the power to make Carbon County an even more attractive place for young families and new businesses.

However, rural areas like ours have been falling behind our metropolitan counterparts, in part due to regulatory barriers to deployment. High fees, lengthy application and siting processes, and unreasonable restrictions on deployment have a large impact on investment, which impacts rural areas both directly and indirectly. Adopting national policies to streamline deployment will help reduce costs, enabling more robust investment not only in urban areas, but also in rural areas like Yellowstone County.

For the above reasons, it is important that the Commission swiftly take action to set guideposts regarding the fees that may be charged, prohibiting unreasonable or subjective requirements, and shortening the timeframes for review of siting applications. These actions, when taken on a federal level, will create a more uniform regulatory framework that will encourage the ubiquitous deployment of the networks and services we need.

As individual Commissioners of Carbon County, we look forward to working with the Commission to ensure that all parts of America reap the benefits of 5G.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert DeArmond

Robert “Pits” DeArmond, Commissioner
Carbon County, Montana
Bridger Dist. #1

/s/ Scott Blain

Scott Blain, Commissioner
Carbon County, Montana
Joliet Dist. #2