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**RE: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to  
Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79; and Accelerating Wireline  
Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment, WT  
Docket No. 17-84**

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Rainbow PUSH writes to express our support for work to address barriers impeding the deployment of vital wireless and wireline next-generation broadband services. Your leadership on these complex issues, as well as your commitment to moving forward is to be applauded.

For almost five decades, Rainbow PUSH has served as the voice to improve the lives of all people by leveling the economic and educational playing fields for minorities and other disadvantaged communities across our nation. We have fought and won many important civil rights battles on the long march toward equality. Significant progress has been made on many fronts, but in the rapid transition to a high-tech economy, new disparities are arising, imperiling these gains and threatening to leave millions on the wrong side of the digital divide. This is why your efforts are so important.

Broadband access to the internet has been a game-changer for people of color, low-income households, and numerous other struggling communities. Smartphones put the world at your fingertips and enable an ever-expanding universe of services that eliminate many of the real-world barriers that have long held back minorities. That people of color have adopted these services at higher rates than other groups is no

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., *Founder & President*  
Martin L. King, *Chairman*  
[www.rainbowpush.org](http://www.rainbowpush.org)

surprise – the convenience and affordability of connectivity delivers a user-experience that best reflects the dynamic and entrepreneurial spirit of these communities.

The next generation of wireless and wireline broadband services promises to amplify these benefits and further weave itself into the fabric of society. The robustness of connections will upend key segments of the economy, making it possible to receive critical healthcare services in real-time, for example. But the truly transformative potential of these services lies in their ability to support an internet of things that will make everything it touches smarter and more responsive. The potential applications of such a truly ubiquitous network are boundless. For minorities, though, the most valuable benefits will stem from the simple fact that these networks will deliver true equality of opportunity. What you look like or where you live will no longer matter in a world where any service is available at the tap of a finger.

Making all of this a reality, though, will require a lot of work, which makes your continued efforts essential. Indeed, there is a chance that, in the absence of a coherent approach to supporting the deployment of these wireless and wireline broadband networks, numerous barriers will arise, impeding their construction. However, guidance could help to streamline state and local processes that, without reform, could undermine network build out. Ensuring regulatory review fees are cost-based and applications are acted on in a timely manner will encourage the investment needed to ensure that these 5G systems are built everywhere.

Rainbow PUSH urges the Federal Communications Commission to continue exploring these critical issues so that 5G becomes a reality in a timely manner. To the extent that the Rainbow PUSH can assist in any way, we stand ready to serve as a resource.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse L. Jackson, Sr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.  
Founder and President

JLJ/amb