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United States Senate

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COMMITTEES  
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Pai,

While I am encouraged to hear that your agency is planning to implement a formal public feedback mechanism to improve broadband coverage maps, the people of West Virginia need help now. Until a more viable process is established, I will be providing you with real coverage data from people on the ground in West Virginia and a brief description of the challenges they face personally, professionally, and economically as a result of their unreliable broadband service.

I have received correspondence from a constituent in Monterville, West Virginia which sits on the edge of the Monongahela National Forest. Monongahela National Forest, a popular spot for fishing, hiking, skiing and camping, is home to 1,700,000 acres of forest, 921,000 of which are federally owned. Due to its proximity to this natural wonder, Monterville attracts a fair number of visitors each year. While some of these visitors may appreciate the chance to unplug, that does not necessarily mean they want to be completely disconnected. For West Virginia to continue to develop its tourism industry in places like Monterville, broadband access is critical.

Using the Ookla Speed Testing Application on a Dell Desktop Computer to test their fixed broadband service from Frontier Communications, my office received the following speed results in Monterville:

- 47.57mbps down / 0.85mbps up

These numbers are well below your agency's definition of broadband and the advertised speed they were given by their provider. I hope you will use this data to validate the information West Virginia's broadband providers have submitted to the FCC and ensure that they are eligible for any and all relevant broadband grants and other resources. Places like Monterville depend on the promise of universal service, and it is our job to make good on that promise.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

(Enclosures)

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