



Borough of Washingtonville

Settled 1775

Borough of Washingtonville
821 County Line Road
Turbotville, PA 17772

November 28, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
RE: Notice of Written Ex Parte

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mailroom

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WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 14-259

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is to support the petition by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to keep nearly \$140 million in Connect America Funds in Pennsylvania to increase access to high speed internet service in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Washingtonville specifically is a small, rural, economically depressed community. As a young man still in his twenties, I have personally seen our downtown's small business district collapse over my lifetime. Major employers immediately outside of our borough such as Talen Energy recently cut thirty jobs. Additionally, the provision of raw materials for USG's gypsum production is constantly uncertain because of the nearby coal power plant is dramatically cutting its fly ash production. Montour Preserve, our area's one local attraction, faces a well-documented challenge of generating finances to stay open.

As someone who works in communications, you know better than anyone that the products and services that broadband technology provides are critical 21st Century infrastructure. Although broadband technology is not a panacea to our community's economic challenges, it is only going to become increasingly essential to preserving jobs and furthering development. Without the benefits of broadband technology, our community, like much of rural Pennsylvania, is only going to be left further behind.

We understand that from a regulatory standpoint, only public utilities are required to provide a basic level of service. However, today's telecommunications marketplace offers other potential partners that are willing to extend service where economically viable. Funding policies should be updated to provide incentives and assistance to these companies that are currently only available to the regulated utilities.

The Connect America Funds allocated to Pennsylvania are very much needed in Pennsylvania. The PUC is interested in exploring alternatives to strengthen underserved rural areas. We ask the FCC to keep the allocated funds in Pennsylvania to provide opportunities for growth. Our small rural community, as well as the rest of rural Pennsylvania, just want the same first-class service that many of our urban counterparts already enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,

Honorable Tyler Dombroski
Mayor