



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Duncan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
116 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

As I explained at the Senate Commerce Committee’s FCC Oversight Hearing earlier this year, resolving this issue will require all the stakeholders to work together and make hard decisions to reach consensus on the best path forward. Everybody agrees that the goal of any changes should be supporting broadband in rural areas. With that in mind, I directed my staff and staff members from the Commission’s Wireline Bureau to meet with stakeholders in the rate-of-return community. We have encouraged all stakeholders in the rate-of-return community to work together to develop an approach that both has the widespread support of the rate-of-return community and meets the principles unanimously outlined by the Commission in our April 2014 *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*.

I share your concern about the state of rural broadband deployment. I also recognize the substantial time, effort, and resources that have been invested in this effort to date by stakeholders in the rate-of-return community to address these issues. I am committed to finding a path forward by the end of the year. But it is important to have a solution – or set of solutions – that creates the right incentives to deploy modern networks throughout rural America, meets the Commission’s overarching policy objectives, and has the widespread support of the rate-of-return carrier community.

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Page 2—The Honorable Jeff Duncan

I look forward to working with you to make continued progress on the deployment of broadband to consumers throughout rural areas a reality.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Renee Ellmers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ellmers:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Renee Ellmers

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Blake Farenthold  
U.S. House of Representatives  
117 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farenthold:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Blake Farenthold

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Foxx:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Virginia Foxx

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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July 27, 2015

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable John Garamendi

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Tom Wheeler



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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Chris Gibson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gibson:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Chris Gibson

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Louie Gohmert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2243 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gohmert:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Louie Gohmert

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Gwen Graham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Graham:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Gwen Graham

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Sam Graves

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund (“USF”) mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today’s marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Morgan Griffith

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Tom Wheeler