



Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair

California Legislature

September 4, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: Expanding Broadband Access

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Pai, Rosenworcel, and O’Rielly:

As Chair of the California State Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee, I understand that access to affordable high-speed Internet is a vital tool to ensure that individuals have the skills necessary to succeed in a competitive global economy. I commend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its commitment to ensure that low-income households have access to affordable broadband rates.

Access to broadband services is vital for navigating daily life. More than 20% of all California’s households still remain without adequate broadband access. Inadequate broadband services makes it more difficult for students to do their homework and for people to find jobs and get the necessary training and information to stay competitive in today’s workforce. Often times, the primary barriers to broadband adoption are (1) costs; (2) relevance, and (3) digital literacy. These barriers are persistent in many disadvantaged communities, such as those in the district I represent. My district is made up predominantly of moderate- and low-income Latino households, and whether or not these communities are reached will determine the success or failure of any program.

Hence, I urge the FCC, when designing a program to expand broadband access, to ensure that the program is designed in a way that provides equal access and funding for all communities in order to close the digital divide. In designing the program, I urge the FCC to establish affordable high



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speed Internet for low-income households and other minority communities, and that these programs are transparent and are held accountable to the communities we represent. I look forward to working together to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable broadband services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANTHONY RENDON
Assemblymember, 63rd District

AR/ec