

FTTH COUNCIL GIGABIT COMMUNITIES RACE TO THE TOP PROGRAM

LETTER FROM COMMUNITIES TO FCC

The Honorable Mignon L. Clyburn, Acting Chairwoman
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman and Commissioners:

Communities across America understand that our residents and businesses need access to affordable ultra-high speed broadband service to drive economic development, social interaction, and civic engagement. While a limited number of communities already are benefiting from infrastructure that can deliver unlimited broadband, the vast majority, particularly outside the major urban areas, are challenged with bridging the gap between the high cost of constructing these networks and assured revenues to justify the build. As a result, we are going without critical infrastructure that can help transform the lives of our citizens, the activities of our businesses and the future of our economies. For that reason that we support the concept of a Gigabit Communities Race to the Top Program, which was proposed to the FCC in a petition filed in July by the Fiber-to-the-Home Council Americas (Council). The establishment of such a competitive, seed capital program by the Commission will facilitate the development of a critical mass of communities with gigabit networks, which in turn will accelerate their deployment across the country.

With the National Broadband Plan, the FCC charted a course to bring ultra-high speed broadband service to all communities. The time is ripe to take another step towards this objective by establishing a Gigabit Communities Race to the Top Program. We call on the Commission to act promptly on the Council's petition.

Sincerely,

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