

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2014

Mr. Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

APR 17 2014

FCC Mail Room

353

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I write to bring to your attention the expression of interest submitted by Horizon Telcom (Horizon) through the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiments initiative, an opportunity for funding that Horizon hopes to use to deploy next-generation broadband networks within numerous counties in rural Appalachia, Ohio. I understand that FCC's initiative seeks to learn more about the impact of technology transitions on rural America, and Horizon believes it can be a valuable partner in helping accomplish that goal.

In particular, Horizon believes their proposal would maximize the impact of the program by leveraging community resources and assembling stakeholders to further strengthen the capacity of Appalachia. Deploying broadband connectivity in Appalachia would incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and quality of life.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Linda Greenwood at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
cc: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
cc: Commissioner Ajit Pai
cc: Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
cc: Mr. Jonathan Chambers, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis
Federal Communications Commission