

June 24, 2014

The Honorable John Thune Ranking Member Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation United States Senate 560 DirksenSenate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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 United States of the 21st century. We are focused on updating the universal service program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural America within the confines of our Connect America budget, while providing increased certainty and predictability for all carriers and a climate for increased broadband expansion. I agree with you that we need to ensure the universal service support mechanisms are serving their intended purpose of "increas[ing] broadband deployment, facilitat[ing] transition to new communications technologies, and bridg[ing] the digital divide."

### Page 2—The Honorable John Thune

I look forward to working with you as we continue the work of reforming and modernizing the universal service fund high-cost program – as well as other components of the Fund – to ensure that all Americans have access to robust voice and broadband services.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



June 24, 2014

The Honorable John Hoeven United States Senate 338 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely.



June 24, 2014

The Honorable John Barrasso United States Senate 307 DirksenSenate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Moran United States Senate 361A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely,
Tom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Merkley United States Senate 313 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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Sincerely,



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen United States Senate 520 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable James Risch United States Senate 483 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable James Inhofe United States Senate 205 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp United States Senate 502 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Dick Durbin United States Senate 711 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow United States Senate 133 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Deb Fischer United States Senate 383 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Dean Heller United States Senate 324 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Daniel Coats United States Senate 493 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

**Dear Senator Coats:** 

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Claire McCaskill United States Senate 506 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Charles Grassley United States Senate 135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

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Sincerely,
Tom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Angus King, Jr. United States Senate 359 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar United States Senate 302 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Al Franken United States Senate 309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin United States Senate 731 HartSenate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Tim Scott United States Senate 167 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

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The Honorable Tim Johnson United States Senate 136 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

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I look forward to working with you as we continue the work of reforming and modernizing the universal service fund high-cost program – as well as other components of the Fund – to ensure that all Americans have access to robust voice and broadband services.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin United States Senate 717 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Difficultity,

I'om Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss United States Senate 416 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Roy Blunt United States Senate 260 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely,

Form Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden United States Senate 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Ron Johnson United States Senate 328 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Rob Portman United States Senate 448 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Richard Burr United States Senate 217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Pat Roberts United States Senate 109 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Orrin Hatch United States Senate 104 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mitch McConnell United States Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mike Enzi United States Senate 379A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mike Crapo United States Senate 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

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I om Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Michael Bennet United States Senate 458 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mark Udall United States Senate 730 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor United States Senate 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pryor:

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Sincerely,
Fom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Mark Begich United States Senate 111 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski United States Senate 709 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

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Tom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Lindsey Graham United States Senate 260 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Tom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte United States Senate 144 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Tom Wheeler



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Jon Tester United States Senate 706 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the *Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable Johnny Isakson United States Senate 131 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

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June 24, 2014

The Honorable John Walsh United States Senate 511 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Walsh:

Thank you for your letter supporting the implementation of a universal service mechanism to allow rural rate-of-return carriers to receive support for broadband-only lines. This is one of the key issues that the Commission raised in the Connect America Fund Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we adopted in April. Your views on this matter are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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 United States of the 21st century. We are focused on updating the universal service program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural America within the confines of our Connect America budget, while providing increased certainty and predictability for all carriers and a climate for increased broadband expansion. I agree with you that we need to ensure the universal service support mechanisms are serving their intended purpose of "increas[ing] broadband deployment, facilitat[ing] transition to new communications technologies, and bridg[ing] the digital divide."

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I look forward to working with you as we continue the work of reforming and modernizing the universal service fund high-cost program – as well as other components of the Fund – to ensure that all Americans have access to robust voice and broadband services.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
Fom Wheeler