



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
825 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

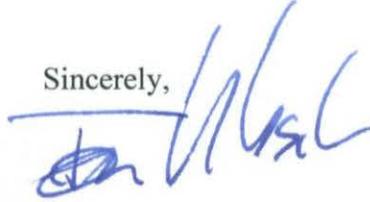
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Deb Fischer

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

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

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

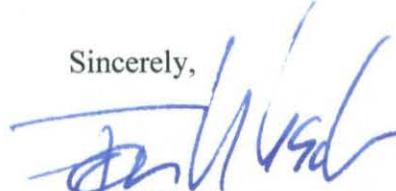
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Michael Enzi

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

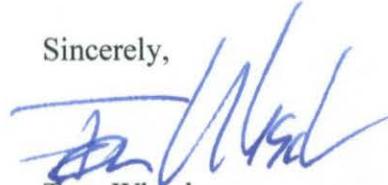
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Ted Cruz

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

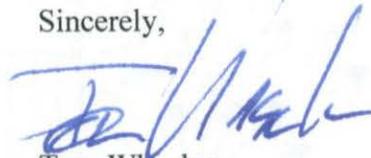
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable John Cornyn

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

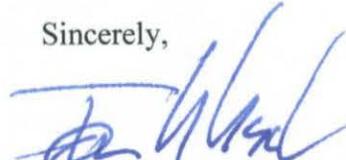
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Tom Coburn

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

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

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

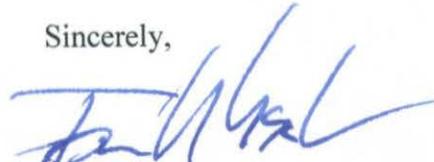
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable John Barrasso

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

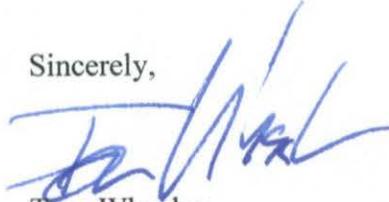
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Lamar Alexander

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senate  
113 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

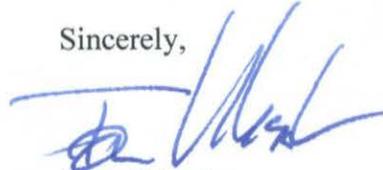
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Tim Scott

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line above the first part of the signature.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 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 concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

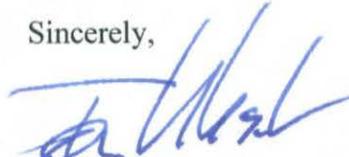
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Pat Roberts

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
386 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

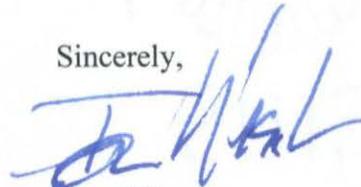
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Ron Johnson

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

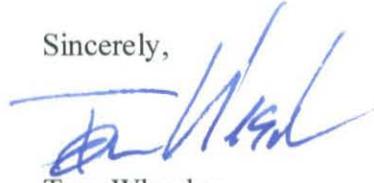
At the same time, many states have enacted laws that place a range of restrictions on communities' ability to make their own decisions about their own future. There is reason to believe that these laws have the effect of limiting competition in those areas, contrary to almost two decades of bipartisan federal communications policy that is focused on encouraging competition. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I also know that state laws which directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly and must be done only after careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Marco Rubio

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Tom Wheeler