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SEP 15 2014

FCC Mail Room

## United States Senate

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September 8, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

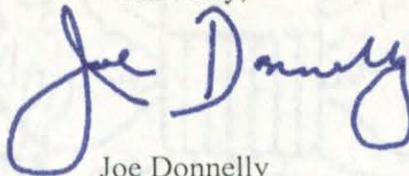
Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Access to affordable, high-speed broadband has become integral to our economy. In our increasingly technology-oriented world, Hoosiers living in both urban and rural parts of Indiana must have fast and reliable broadband so that they can build businesses, access employment prospects, and connect to a wide range of educational resources. Phase II of the Connect America Fund ("CAF II") presents a renewed opportunity to incentivize broadband investment in rural areas so that these communities are not left behind.

With that in mind, I encourage the Commission to consider several modifications to its final rule to help ensure that affordable, high-speed broadband is available to as many people as possible. First, I ask the Commission to consider extending the CAF II funding period from five to 10 years, while maintaining the current proposed annual budget, to allow adequate time for construction of higher-capacity networks. Further, the Commission should aim to be as precise as possible when determining whether areas are considered served in order to ensure that all residents of a census block have access to broadband. Finally, where data is available that indicates certain locations in a census block are unserved, the Commission should consider allowing broadband providers to use some of their CAF II funds to reach those areas.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your efforts to expand broadband access across the country.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator