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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 1, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Broadband Internet access is essential to many rural communities in Texas and throughout the nation. The Internet is a vital tool that drives economic growth, spurs innovation, and helps individuals further their education. Robust broadband service to the Internet enables constituents in the Twenty First District of Texas to compete on a global scale.

As the Commission considers Phase II of the Connect America Fund, I encourage the Commission to consider eligibility requirements that maximize opportunities for faster broadband connection to millions of Americans who otherwise would be unserved.

Specifically, the program could benefit more communities if the funding period allows ample time to build the higher-capacity network in unserved areas. And the use of the same standard for broadband speed for all program recipients ensures that no community will be left behind in terms of technology.

Thank you for your efforts to improve broadband service to unserved communities. I look forward to working with the Commission on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

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