



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 13, 2014

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter expressing interest in how best to update our Universal Service Fund (USF) policies to reflect current consumer mobility demand and need, especially in rural and high-cost areas. Your views 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 similar opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the United States of the 21st century. In the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order, the Commission took significant strides to update the universal service program to reflect the realities of the 21st century. In particular, the Commission adopted specific performance goals to preserve and advance the universal availability of voice service and to ensure the universal availability of modern networks capable of providing advanced mobile voice and broadband services.

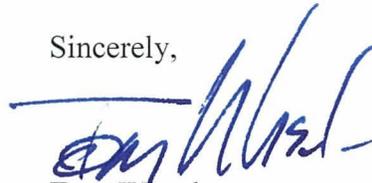
A core component of the Commission's 2011 USF reforms was the creation of the Connect America Fund to preserve and advance voice and robust broadband services, both fixed and mobile, in high-cost areas of the nation that the marketplace would otherwise not serve. The Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau completed the auction for Mobility Fund Phase I on September 27, 2012, with 33 winning bidders eligible to receive a total of up to \$299,998,632 in one-time support to provide 3G or better mobile voice and broadband services, with disbursements beginning in April 2013 and anticipated to continue through 2016 as carriers complete their deployments.

Earlier this year, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) to seek comments on proposals to target funds to support mobile services in a Mobility Fund Phase II. In the FNPRM, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving and advancing mobile voice and broadband services in high-cost areas. In light of marketplace developments in the years since we originally adopted the Mobility Fund regime, we seek comment on how to target funding to areas in which service only exists today due to support from the Universal Service Fund. We also seek to extend service to areas that would not otherwise be covered by commercial 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) deployments. Our goal is consistent with yours: how best to use the limited funds available to us to ensure that rural Americans can take advantage of the opportunities presented by a "mobile society."

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I look forward to working with you as we continue reforming and modernizing the USF high-cost program to ensure that all Americans have access to robust voice and broadband services. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



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2303 Rayburn House Office Building
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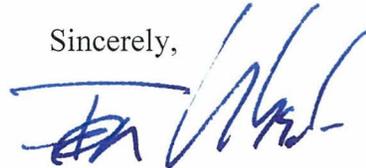
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line drawn above the first few letters.

Tom Wheeler