

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

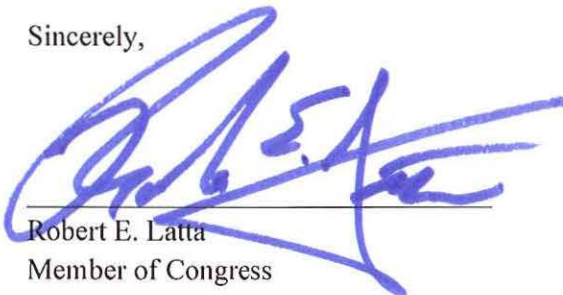
One of the central tenets of the 1996 Telecommunications Act was to ensure that rural and high cost areas throughout the country were provided access to telecommunications and information services comparable to those provided in urban areas. As Members of Congress who represent rural areas we want to see that this stated goal of comparable access and rates is fully realized.

The dramatic and impressive adoption of wireless devices in both urban and rural areas over the past few years highlights the need for robust and reliable mobile telecommunications networks throughout the country. It should be noted that what we take for granted while we utilize wireless devices in Washington, D.C. is often not the case when we return to many of our rural districts. We all know where dead zones and poor quality service lurk in our districts. We also know that our constituents have embraced mobility as an essential part of their lives.

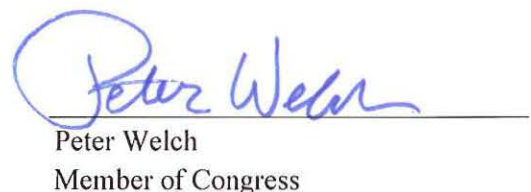
Dependable wireless coverage provides countless opportunity for rural and urban residents alike: daily communication between family members; mobile broadband access for businesses to compete and drive economic development; agricultural efficiency mechanisms; unlimited access to information for students and teachers; and quickly and appropriately responding to health and safety emergencies. These opportunities should not be jeopardized by scattered or inconsistent wireless services for those who live in rural America.

As the Commission begins to revisit how best to update the Mobility Fund within the Universal Service Fund to reflect current consumer mobility demand and need, we urge you to continue to work to fulfill the obligations required in Section 254 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act in order to deliver a 21st Century rural wireless infrastructure that allows our communities to take advantage of the endless opportunities within a mobile society. An effective mobile infrastructure provides high speed data and voice coverage in homes, in towns, and on our roads. The health of the rural economy rests, in large part, on these important decisions and we look forward to hearing from you about how the Commission intends to deliver on that mandate.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress