

MARK E. AMODEI  
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE AND SCIENCE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2802

WASHINGTON, DC  
222 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2802  
(202) 225-6155

RENO  
5310 KIETZKE LANE  
SUITE 103  
RENO, NV 89511  
(775) 686-5760

ELKO  
905 RAILROAD STREET  
SUITE 104 D  
ELKO, NV 89801  
(775) 777-7705

October 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Received & Inspected

NOV 03 2014

FCC Mail Room

1171

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Phase II of the Connect America Fund ("CAF II") offers an opportunity to bring speedier, fiber-fed broadband connections to millions of Americans in rural areas served by the larger "price cap" carriers. Indeed, the FCC's June 10 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) has raised hopes by more than doubling the promised download speeds in the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order, from 4 Mbps to 10 Mbps. And because CAF II represents the final phase of Universal Service reform, its rule will effectively determine, for years to come, how broadband support is distributed in these areas.

I am writing today to emphasize how important it is to ensure that the final details of CAF II live up to its promise. We are concerned that if the Commission more than doubles the speed requirements without allowing the appropriate level of flexibility in other elements of CAF II, the program's overall mission could be endangered.

To the Commission's credit, its FNPRM identifies a number of constructive ideas that could help achieve the speedier network goals without exceeding the CAF II annual budget. I hope you will take prompt action to ensure that broadband is available to as many people in rural areas as possible in terms of support and providing carriers with flexibility in the process.

Thank you for considering our concerns, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mark E Amodei (NV-2)