## **CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**

DELEGATION OFFICE STATE OF NEW MEXICO HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510 (202) 631-2322 Received & Inspected
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November 20, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing in support of the application submitted by the The High Plains Regional Education Cooperative (HPREC) and Terastream Broadband, Incorporated (TBI) for a Federal Communications Commission Rural Broadband Experiments project. The project will consist of deploying the TBI unique White Space Technology and providing broadband connectivity in the Farmington, New Mexico area.

The HPREC/TBI Project will use TV White Spaces for the delivery of broadband and telephone services to the end user, and feature fiber-like speeds using RF Technology to provide rural schools and libraries fiber-like connectivity much cheaper than using traditional fiber deployment. The project will demonstrate that the capability exists to provide more connectivity to schools and libraries within the limited E-rate budget. In addition, because the delivery technology is RF, students can enjoy broadband access in their homes, accelerating digital learning in rural populations.

The HPREC/TBI Rural Broadband Experiments project will assist the FCC in meeting its objectives of:

- Gathering data to determine if smaller carriers can meet the needs of providing broadband for less cost in price cap carrier markets by allowing smaller operators to serve in those areas;
- Determining how tailored economic incentives can advance the deployment of next generation networks in rural, high-cost areas, including Tribal lands;
- Providing critical information regarding which and what types of parties are willing to build networks that will deliver services that exceed FCC current performance standards for an amount of money equal to or less than the support amounts calculated by the adopted Phase II Connect America Cost Model; and
- Exploring how to structure the Phase II competitive bidding process in price cap areas as well as gathering valuable information about interest in deploying next generation networks in high-cost areas.

HPREC, as an agency of the state government of New Mexico, will be the overall program administrator for this project. This will be a first step in developing a State of New Mexico/FCC partnership for future projects where the state will become a key partner.

We fully support the HPREC/TBI application, and we request that you give it your thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall

United States Senator

Martin Heinrich

United States Senator

Stevan Pearce

United States Representative

Ben Ray Luján

United States Representative

Michelle Lujan Grisham

United States Representative