



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. As you know, I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country, including on the visit you and I had to the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

On February 12, I circulated an Order to modernize universal support for rate-of-return carriers. The proposed Order sets forth a package of reforms to address rate-of-return issues that are fundamentally intertwined—the need to modernize the program to provide support for stand-alone broadband service; the need to improve incentives for broadband investment to connect unserved rural Americans; and the need to strengthen the rate-of-return system to provide certainty and stability for years to come. A Further Notice included with the Order would specifically seek comment on additional reforms, including the Tribal Broadband Factor proposal you reference in your letter, to further incentivize broadband investment and deployment on unserved and underserved Tribal lands.

I recognize that the challenges before us are great. But working together, we will seize upon technological opportunities to improve lives across Indian Country. I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. As you know, I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country, including on the visit you and I had to the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 1, 2016

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

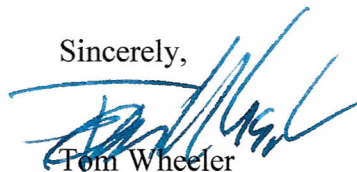
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
U.S. House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Grisham:

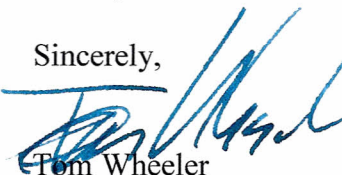
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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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March 1, 2016

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. As you know, I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country, including on the visit you and I had to the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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