



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2335 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II reverse auction that would promote the deployment of high-speed, long-term broadband networks in Missouri. 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 share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country, particularly as Americans become increasingly reliant on broadband for job opportunities, healthcare, education, public safety, and civic participation. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

Last September, I circulated an Order for the consideration of my fellow Commissioners that would address the framework for the CAF Phase II competitive bidding process. In December, I circulated an updated draft Order that addressed concerns raised by other Commissioners' offices. I remain committed to completing the CAF Phase II auction framework as expeditiously as possible, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to resolve this important matter promptly.

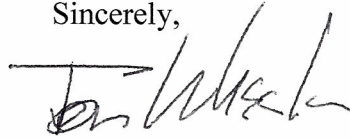
I agree that the structure for the CAF Phase II competitive bidding process should encourage both fiscal responsibility and the deployment of future-proof broadband networks. I can assure you that the Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas not only for today, but in the future, all within the confines of the Connect America Fund's budget. In addition, underlying all of our reforms to the high-cost program is the shared principle that we should limit the use of ratepayer funds to support service in an area that is served by an unsubsidized voice and broadband provider.

Your letter also emphasizes that the reverse auction process should enable broadband providers to compete with each other to provide the best services to the most unserved locations at the lowest cost. One of the primary policy goals of the competitive bidding process is to ensure widespread participation from all providers that can deliver a high-quality service. Simply put, more competition between providers means that finite universal service funding will be used efficiently to deliver the best possible solutions. As we move forward with

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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 21, 2016

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II reverse auction that would promote the deployment of high-speed, long-term broadband networks in Missouri. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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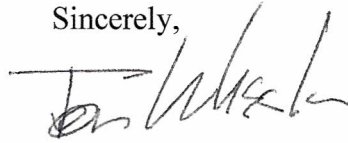
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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2235 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II reverse auction that would promote the deployment of high-speed, long-term broadband networks in Missouri. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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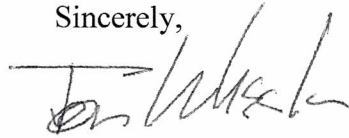
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THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Billy Long  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1541 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II reverse auction that would promote the deployment of high-speed, long-term broadband networks in Missouri. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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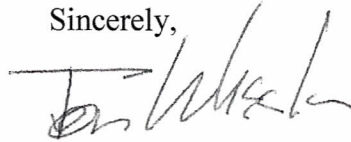
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

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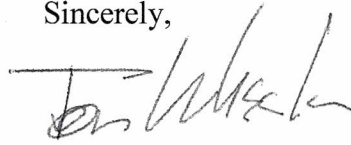
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jason Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II reverse auction that would promote the deployment of high-speed, long-term broadband networks in Missouri. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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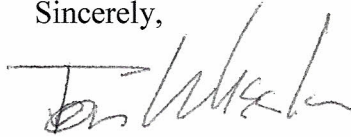
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Ann Wagner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
435 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

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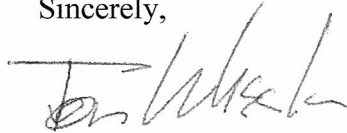
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