

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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August 1, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Chairman Wheeler:

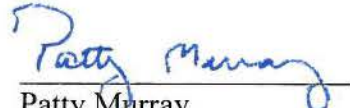
Thank you for your continuing efforts to improve both wireline and wireless broadband access in rural America and to promote competitive broadband markets. Today, we write to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the final rule in the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on business data services is based on accurate industry data and promotes strong continued investment in broadband infrastructure.

We appreciate the Commission's goal with the FNPRM to incentivize telecommunications providers to build and invest in networks while enhancing competition among the various providers of business data services. As you work toward a final rule, it is especially important for rural states like ours that the Commission use all the available data, including the data submitted earlier this year by the major cable operators, to both measure competitive markets accurately and ensure that the regulations for noncompetitive markets are based on the real cost to provide service. Rural communities depend on robust investments in business data services to connect small businesses and anchor institutions, support wireless data service, and enable economic development. Without these investments, our rural constituents will face significant challenges in accessing the 21st century global economy.

We strongly believe that good decisions can be made with good information. This is an important rule that will serve the public's interest if it can be completed using the most accurate data. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jon Tester
United States Senator

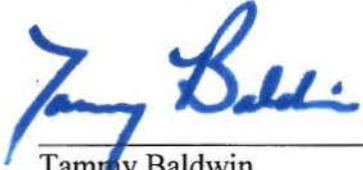

Patty Murray
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



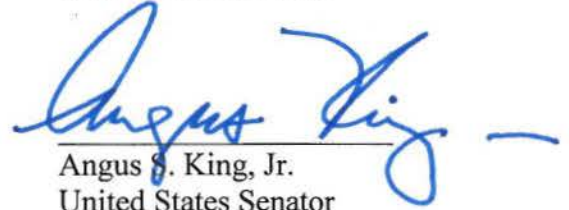
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator