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COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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FCC Mail Room

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As you know, cell phones have become a nearly integral part of modern society. They are used to operate and grow small businesses, to keep in touch with friends and family while on the go, and to provide safety to the user; in addition to many other important uses. Unfortunately, cell service deployment in rural America has lagged behind urban areas. As a result, rural America becomes less competitive and less secure. To address this issue for rural Americans nationwide, I urge you to move forward with Phase II of the Mobility Fund.

In Northern Wisconsin, where I live, cell phones are more than a just a way to communicate, they enhance the safety of small communities where the nearest emergency assistance may be tens of miles away. Phase I of the Mobility Fund successfully brought voice and mobile broadband service to previously unserved areas. However, more support is needed for underserved communities like those in Northern Wisconsin. Implementation of Phase II is critical to make those areas as competitive and secure as the rest of country.

This area, which lacks adequate cell service, generates a significant amount of economic activity for my state. However, if cell service infrastructure is not improved, it will make it much harder for this area to remain competitive, especially when other areas of the country are deploying 5G trials in 2017. Given the importance of cell service to the economy and safety of rural communities, the Mobility Fund must be used to create and maintain new broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

I appreciate your efforts to ensure that the latest technologies are available to all Americans, regardless of their zip code. However, there is more work to be done. I respectfully request that the goal of expanding cell service in rural America remains a top priority for the Commission until this problem is solved.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

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