

August 8, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) Mobility Fund was designed to increase wireless voice and broadband coverage to rural areas throughout America. In 2012 the FCC moved forward with Phase I of its Mobility Fund, awarding \$300 million to wireless carriers so that they would provide 3G and LTE Service in areas that do not currently have such coverage. We write to urge the Commission to adopt rules and implement Phase II of the Mobility Fund, which should be focused on expanding access to 4G LTE service. If designed right, this program will enable more rural Americans to gain access to 4G LTE wireless voice and broadband services.

Earlier this year, you noted that the urban-rural divide concerning broadband access remains "significant" in our country. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many of our constituents.

Several residents in Missouri, especially those living in rural areas, have struggled to gain access to adequate wireless voice and broadband service. As you and your colleagues have acknowledged, lack of broadband access prevents communities from thriving in today's world. Folks in these communities do not have the same opportunities to attain important information relating to new job prospects, education, public safety and healthcare options.

Mobility Fund Phase I was a limited first step to expand 3G and 4G mobile wireless networks to underserved areas using incentive-based and market driven policies. The Commission should build on those policies while making appropriate adjustments to the design of Mobility Fund Phase II so that it benefits as many rural Americans as possible who currently lack access to 4G LTE service.

Along with relieving wireless carriers of regulatory burdens that discourage private sector investment in rural areas, this auction is one of the most important steps the Commission can take **this year** to promote wireless voice and broadband coverage in the rural areas of Missouri. It is critical that the Commission proceed as quickly as possible with the Mobility Fund Phase II reverse auction targeted at expanding such services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning the status of this auction.

Sincerely,



JASON SMITH
Member of Congress



BLAINE LEUTKEMEYER
Member of Congress



BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress