

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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May 10, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

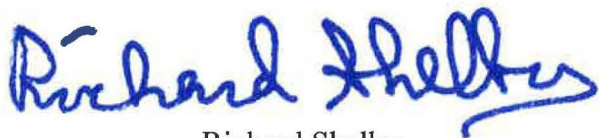
We recently met with representatives of Alabama’s rural telecommunications industry. These companies have worked diligently to deploy broadband connectivity into many rural areas of our state. They did so with the assistance of Universal Service Fund (USF) public policy support and in a manner consistent with the Fund’s goals.

Our constituent companies report significant progress by the Commission on a number of issues that affect rural carriers. Mr. Chairman, though we understand there are many things left to do, we commend you on these advancements.

We appreciate that significant action is pending with respect to a number of important matters. It is in Alabama’s best interest that the Commission remain focused on finding ways to preserve rural USF support, both for carriers who have significantly deployed broadband and for those who are still attempting to do so in the face of challenging market and population demographics. A key component of this is your pending consideration of the “rate floor” mandate and its impact upon rural consumers. We support your intention to address the mandate as planned in your upcoming Open Commission Meeting.

We thank you for your work on these important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Shelby
U.S. Senator



Luther Strange
U.S. Senator



Robert Aderholt
U.S. Congressman



Mo Brooks
U.S. Congressman