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Received & Inspected
MAY 22 2017

FCC Mail Room

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3810

May 17, 2017

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2242 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3731

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:
1020 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 1A
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
(570) 322-3961

543 EASTON TURNPIKE, SUITE 101
LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436
(570) 689-6024

713 BRIDGE STREET, ROOM 29
SELINGROVE, PA 17870
(570) 374-9469

TOM MARINO

10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND
ANTITRUST LAW

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www.marino.house.gov

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Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Pai:

On April 19, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PaPUC), along with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PaDCED), jointly filed a petition requesting that the FCC make a minor modification to its recently promulgated Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) auction formula. I want to express my support for this joint petition and hope that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will approve this petition.

Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional district, which I represent in Congress, is expansive and rural covering all or part of 15 counties. In three of the counties that I represent- Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Juniata- more than 50% of residents do not have access to broadband services. This is in stark contrast to urban areas in the state where only 3% of residents do not have access. Broadband access is more important than ever to the education, employment, and economic development of my constituents.

The PaPUC-PaDCED joint petition asks that the FCC reconsider certain aspects of its CAF II auction rules. The FCC should narrowly modify or waive these rules to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and fairness of the auction rules for Pennsylvania and the 10th District. Pennsylvania is a net-contributor into the Federal Universal Service Fund and this money should be coming back into Pennsylvania, regardless of what an incumbent carrier decides.

I hope that you approve this joint petition and provide much needed resources for my constituents, and other residents of rural Pennsylvania, to improve access to broadband services. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Tom Marino
Member of Congress