

February 21, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Pai:

Your short time as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has already brought about significant and welcome change, particularly your commitment to transparency, which is in striking contrast to your predecessor.

As you contemplate the long-range strategy for wireless access in our vast country, I ask that you keep in mind the thousands of rural communities that still do not have access to increasingly essential broadband Internet. This is particularly important in my home state of Kentucky, where a significant portion of my constituents live outside of the urban centers. Many Kentuckians have benefitted from the wireless industry's ongoing effort to increase broadband deployment to remote regions of the Commonwealth. Indeed, fast and reliable internet service has brought new economic opportunities to rural communities that would otherwise not be available.

I understand that you are committed to ensuring that no home is without access to wireless services, rural or otherwise. This is a noble goal and one I whole-heartedly support. To that end, I hope you will continue to give serious consideration to the needs of rural Americans and look for ways to responsibly preserve their access to fast and reliable Internet.

Thank you in advance for your attentiveness to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/qs

cc: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission