



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Sam Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman on January 24, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants Internet access can get it. As you well know, if you live in rural America, there's a better than 1-in-4 chance that you lack access to fixed high-speed broadband at home, compared to a 1-in-50 probability in our cities. The bottom line is this: Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in more urban areas.

That's why I was pleased to announce that August will be Rural Broadband Month at the FCC. Our agenda for the open meeting on August 3 will feature several items that will help bridge the digital divide, including a Public Notice to initiate the pre-auction process for the CAF Phase II Auction.

Following the Commission's bipartisan vote on February 23, the auction will offer almost \$2 billion over the next ten years to broadband providers that commit to offer voice and broadband services to fixed locations in unserved high-cost areas in our country. As you note, the auction rules are structured to induce new entrants to participate—competitive entrants like wireless Internet service providers, small-town cable operators, and electric utilities. The *CAF II Auction Order* adopted auction weights designed to give every bidder—no matter what technology they use—a meaningful opportunity to compete for federal funds, while ensuring the best value for the American taxpayer. With this Public Notice, we are seeking comment on the procedures to be used during this auction. Moving forward now will put us on track to conduct the auction in 2018.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and I look forward to continue working with you as the Commission moves towards holding the CAF Phase II reverse auction. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Jason Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Ann Wagner
U.S. House of Representatives
435 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. I agree that moving the auction process forward is an important part of our efforts to close the digital divide. Your views will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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