

September 15, 2017

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write seeking your assurance that the Federal Communications Commission's plan to transfer the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) will not permit USF monies to be spent for other federal programs. The programs supported by USF have connected millions of Americans and should not be spent on other debts.

The principle of universal service embodied by the USF is one of the core principles of the Communications Act. Through the four discrete USF programs, the FCC has been able to build out broadband in rural and tribal areas, help connect schools and libraries, improve health care, and extend a communications lifeline to struggling Americans.

According to reports, the FCC is planning to move the USF to the Treasury. We have heard concerns from constituents that this move could allow USF funds to be used for other purposes, which could make it more difficult to bridge the digital divide.

Before the FCC moves forward with its plan, we ask you to please commit that it would be impermissible for USF monies to be spent for other purposes if the USF is moved to the Treasury. Such an assurance is important for the millions of Americans whose connection depends on the USF.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBBSACK
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress