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## For Immediate Release

## FCC UNVEILS INITIAL MAP OF AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR MOBILITY FUND PHASE II SUPPORT Challenge Process to Begin March 29, 2018

WASHINGTON, February 27, 2018—The Federal Communications Commission today released a map showing areas across the United States presumed eligible to receive support for the deployment of 4G LTE service as part of its Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II) auction.

The MF-II auction will make up to \$4.53 billion in support available over 10 years to primarily rural areas that lack unsubsidized 4G LTE service. MF-II is critically important to supporting mobile voice and broadband coverage, incentivizing the deployment of mobile wireless service through a reverse auction, and ensuring that 4G LTE service is preserved and advanced in those areas of the country that lack unsubsidized service.

The Commission also announced today the procedures for the challenge process in which mobile service providers and government entities will have an opportunity to challenge an initial determination that an area is ineligible for MF-II support. The window for submitting a challenge opens on March 29, 2018, and will remain open until August 27, 2018. The challenge process enables the Commission to resolve disputes quickly and ensures that support is allocated to the areas that need it most.

"The Commission continues to move forward aggressively to close the digital divide for all Americans," said Chelsea Fallon, Director of the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force. "The actions taken today, coupled with the Commission's vote resolving petitions for reconsideration, signal that we are on course and on schedule to deliver support to areas across the country for high-speed mobile broadband."

The initial eligible areas map is available here: <u>www.fcc.gov/maps/mobility-fund-ii-initial-eligible-areas-map/</u>.

For information on the challenge process, visit: www.fcc.gov/mobility-fund-phase-2.

The order resolving petitions for reconsideration is available here: https://www.fcc.gov/document/mobility-fund-phase-ii-second-order-reconsideration.

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