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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 26, 2018

VICE CHAIR AND PARLIAMENTARIAN
STEERING AND POLICY

PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER—EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

137 VICE RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to urge you to maintain the rules adopted by the FCC in April 2015 for commercial use of the 3.5 Ghz bandwidth, the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) spectrum. This rule was adopted to ensure that small businesses could compete with larger market players for coverage areas, and to provide an environment where wireless innovation can flourish. Innovation in wireless creates the environment where we will be best able to connect rural America through high-speed broadband. It is critical that you maintain the rules currently in place to ensure we continue to advance rural broadband connectivity.

The FCC has estimated that 39% of rural Americans do not have access to quality broadband, amounting to over 23 million individuals according to some research. Without a reliable connection, these Americans are missing the opportunities of the digital age, from potential professional gains to entertainment and the arts. Large telecommunications companies have been in the rural markets for years, but have yet to provide much of these communities with reliable connectivity. It is necessary that we create the competition necessary to provide service to these Americans, and to give new innovative companies and organizations a chance to experiment in wireless broadband technology.

Thank you for your attention to our request, I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis, Member of Congress