

JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN
PUERTO RICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-2615 FAX: (202) 225-2154

SAN JUAN OFFICE:
157 AVENIDA DE LA CONSTITUCIÓN
ANTIGUO EDIFICIO DE MEDICINA TROPICAL
SEGUNDO PISO
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901
(787) 723-6333 FAX: (787) 729-7738

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COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5400

May 8, 2018

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

Re: Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent visit to Puerto Rico to meet with local leaders and communications service providers and review the status of communications restoration efforts after the devastating 2017 hurricane season. Puerto Rico appreciates your commitment to think creatively to help restore communications networks in the aftermath of the unprecedented destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

I write in connection with your proposal to create a \$750 million *Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund* ("Fund"). While I understand that at this point the Fund is a proposal, I have some concerns regarding the level of *new* funding that the Fund would include. Specifically, during the roundtable conducted in Puerto Rico on March 7, 2018, FCC staff mentioned that the Fund would include ten years of frozen high cost wireline support and three years of frozen high cost wireless support.

According to the Federal-State Joint Board Monitoring Reports, Puerto Rico receives approximately \$115 million per year in frozen high cost support, of which approximately \$36 million is for wireline networks and \$79 million for wireless networks. Ten years of wireline support and three years of wireless support is approximately \$597 million. Thus, out of the \$750 million proposed in the Fund, \$597 million (80 percent) would be repurposed funding and \$153 million (20 percent) would be new funding.

If 80 percent of the Fund consists of funds that Puerto Rico already receives, the proposal will likely fail in having the intended effect. Ideally all, or at least most, of the Fund would consist of new funding to provide Puerto Rico a meaningful opportunity to restore service, rebuilt its networks in a manner that are better suited

to withstand future storms and hurricanes, and expand service. As you move forward with the Fund proposal, I urge you to take the steps necessary to maximize the levels of new funding in this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. If my office can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Jennifer González Colón
Member of Congress