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October 23, 2018

830

Received & Inspected

OCT 29 2018

FCC Mailroom

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to echo Chairman Thune and the South Dakota delegation's strong support for full funding of the High Cost program budget within the Universal Service Fund (USF). Minnesotans, South Dakotans, and Midwesterners alike benefit from this program's effort to ensure broadband services are comparable to urban areas. Decreased funding could put at risk this vital access.

Thank you for your recent effort to provide funding to those in the program. However, future funding is still critical. I have previously joined letters with colleagues expressing support for the USF, which includes predictable and long-term funding for those in rural areas.

Please prioritize addressing this budget shortfall. Deficient funding could affect both existing and future deployment of rural broadband. Minnesota stands to see millions in lost support for investments that have already been made, resulting in decreased broadband coverage and increased costs to consumers.

Thank you for your work in recent years to expand rural access and ensure every American can be connected. I look forward to working together to ensure the Minnesotans affected remain connected to our digital economy. Please contact Landon Zinda with my office at Landon.Zinda@mail.house.gov if you require more information.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress