

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 27, 2018

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Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As Senators from rural states, we take seriously the need for affordable and reliable broadband in communities with limited access. While the Federal Communications Commission and this Congress have made progress in expanding connectivity in rural areas, there is more work to be done.

In recent years, TV White Space (TVWS) technology has emerged as an affordable solution for rural and tribal communities lacking broadband. Employing unused and unlicensed spectrum has the potential to expand opportunities for many rural and tribal communities, including expanding their access to the global marketplace and spurring job creation. This is possible due to the unique features of the spectrum, which is capable of traveling long distances while maintaining robust bandwidth capabilities. However, we are also aware of concerns of possible interference with traditional broadcast networks and Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. Therefore, we believe it is important the Commission finalize guidance for TVWS that allows for the expansion of this technology while mitigating the potential for harmful interference.

We urge the Commission to finalize its outstanding Unlicensed Reconsideration proceeding (Docket No. 14-165) and Database Accuracy proceeding (Docket No. 16-56), adopting appropriate technical rules to provide sufficient regulatory certainty so that broadband providers can invest in expanding connectivity in rural states. We support using different tools and technology to expand broadband access and believe it is important to balance the expansion of new technologies with existing networks and infrastructure.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to bridge the digital divide and hope you will consider taking action to resolve the regulatory uncertainty for TVWS development.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator