



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition for reconsideration filed by Hamilton County Telephone Co-op (Hamilton) seeking review of the Commission's *2018 Rate-of-Return Report and Order and NPRM*. On December 12, 2018, the Commission adopted an Order on Reconsideration denying Hamilton's petition, finding that the petition effectively came two years too late.

The petition requested an increase in Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support for 2,444 locations, effectively asking the Commission to revise Hamilton's A-CAM eligible census blocks that the Commission had established two years ago in the *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*. Since that 2016 order, the Commission has not sought comment on or otherwise indicated in any way that it would allow changes, modifications, or adjustments to funded locations for authorized A-CAM carriers. In addition, the Commission found that the carrier's petition advanced arguments identical to those made in petitions the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau had rejected in previous orders, and that its attempt to introduce new evidence concerning the coverage claims of an unsubsidized competitor fell short. Although the Commission could not grant relief in this case, I can assure you that its consideration involved a fair and comprehensive examination of the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai