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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

October 24, 2018

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

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Dear Chairman Pai:

I am submitting this letter regarding the Petition for Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") *March 23, 2018 Report and Order*, filed by Hamilton County Telephone Co-op ("Hamilton" or "the Co-op") to the FCC for the purposes of reviewing areas that were eliminated from Alternative Connect America Model ("A-CAM") funding due to data showing a competitive overlap. I understand Hamilton is pursuing a correction in order to restore federal broadband support for the roughly 2,200 affected locations in my district.

I share the goals of the FCC's mission to bring high speed broadband to rural America. Indeed, to stay connected in this new age of technology, all rural and urban areas should be allowed equal access and the ability to receive adequate high-speed broadband to operate in the modern world. Moreover, I am neutral when it comes to competition between broadband providers in my district, particularly when they are working to deploy critical services in rural areas.

That said, given the importance of broadband internet access, the implications of your decision in the matter of Hamilton's request are significant to my constituents. As such, I respectfully ask that the FCC thoroughly review the facts of Hamilton's petition, including engineering studies and other relevant information, in order to ensure scarce federal resources are used as effectively as possible in delivering connectivity to rural consumers in my district. As you know from our multiple hearings on mapping and rural broadband, having more precise data to what affordable services are available in hard-to-reach services is essential to close the digital divide.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your work to expand broadband access to all Americans. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-5271.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus
Member of Congress