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February 7, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

According to your most recent broadband deployment report, approximately 25 percent of rural Floridians lack access to a broadband connection. I am all too familiar with this problem in my district, where more than 90 percent of the geographic area is classified as rural. My constituents in Gainesville generally have broadband access; it is a different reality if you travel just a few miles outside of the city. Students are unable to complete their homework, small business owners can't keep up with their competitors' digital footprints, health care quality diminishes, and farmers can't take advantage of the latest precision agriculture tools.

I appreciate the Commission's efforts to bridge the rural broadband gap and encourage the Commission to take the additional step of better enabling TV white spaces (TVWS) technology. TVWS technology is already delivering broadband connectivity to thousands of rural Americans across the country. I am eager for this technology to be deployed more broadly, enabling broadband connectivity for my constituents, but regulatory uncertainty is limiting the needed investments in TVWS technology that would improve performance and reduce costs.

In Washington, we can work together to ensure our policies give local broadband providers every possible tool to expand access. Removing regulatory barriers related to TVWS broadband deployment is one of those opportunities and I encourage you to move quickly, to provide the regulatory certainty these providers need.

The Commission should eliminate these regulatory barriers by finalizing proceedings related to TVWS that have remained in draft form for more than two years. Specifically, it is crucial that appropriate technical rules are in place so that sufficient spectrum below 700 MHz is available for unlicensed broadband use. Additionally, rules need to be adopted to address the opportunity for TVWS use in rural areas, which could enable connectivity on school buses and IoT scenarios like precision agriculture.

I believe that taking action to remove the regulatory barriers holding TVWS back is consistent with the Commission's goals. Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to your timely response to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress