

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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April 10, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to you in support of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) consideration of a Report and Order that would eliminate the Universal Service Fund High-Cost program's rate floor rule and end the federal mandate that increases telephone rates for rural Americans. We applaud the Commission for giving this item timely consideration during its April 12, 2019, Open Commission Meeting.

This policy, if not eliminated, stands to disproportionately harm elderly, low-income consumers, and individuals on tribal lands in rural America by significantly raising telephone rates in rural areas. While the rate floor is temporarily frozen due to your ongoing rulemaking proceeding, the rule itself is inherently flawed and unnecessary.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your commitment to ensure rural Americans have affordable and reliable communications services. We encourage you and your fellow Commissioners at the FCC to strongly support the Report and Order.

Sincerely,



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JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator



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JERRY MORAN  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Mike O'Rielly  
Commissioner, FCC

Cc: The Honorable Brendan Carr  
Commissioner, FCC

Cc: The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner, FCC

Cc: The Honorable Geoffrey Starks  
Commissioner, FCC