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FCC Mailroom May 20, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As you know, across the United States access to mobile 4G LTE services continues to remain a stubborn challenge that has led to many gaps in cellular service coverage. These gaps are worst in our rural communities. The lack of cell coverage has become more than a quality of life issue. Cellular service is now critical to public safety and economic development. To retain and attract people to move to these communities, and to ensure businesses thrive, access to reliable cellular coverage is a necessity.

The FCC, through the Mobile Fund Phase II (MFII) project, has been collecting mobile 4G LTE coverage data that has been used to create a map identifying areas that lack cellular coverage that was released on February 27, 2018. These maps have shown that data previously supplied to the FCC has overstated actual service coverage.

In 2018, several members of the U.S. Senate wrote to you to describe issues with the MFII map and concerns of misrepresentation. MFII is intended to provide \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years to preserve and expand mobile coverage throughout rural portions of the United States. However, the current data and map does not adequately represent the areas of our country that need this funding.

Many financing options exist to support the expansion of broadband services to communities; however these programs do not address gaps in cell service. Some examples of these programs include:

- Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Community Connect Broadband Grants Program
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants Program
- Connect America Fund/Universal Service High Cost Program, FCC
- US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Economic Development Facilities and Public Works
- Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

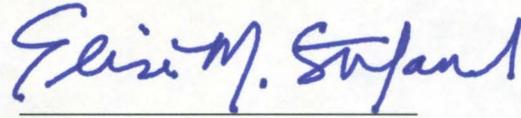
We urge the FCC to expand the MFII grant program to include explicit funding for rural cellular deployment; expedite the process to distribute these grant funds; and clearly and accurately identify areas within the United States that require this investment.

Sincerely,



Anthony Brindisi

Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik

Member of Congress



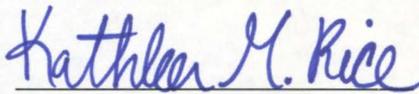
Paul Tonko

Member of Congress



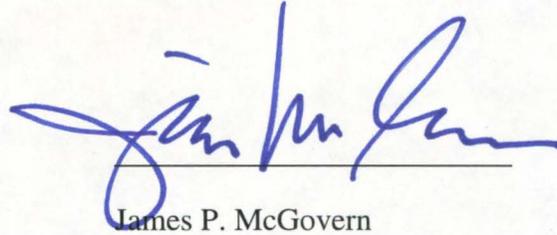
Antonio Delgado

Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice

Member of Congress



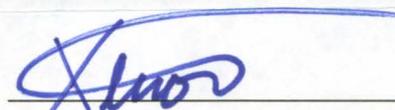
James P. McGovern

Member of Congress



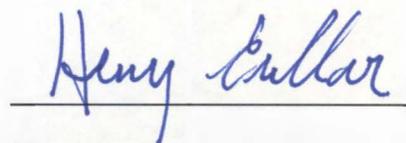
Jeff Van Drew

Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small

Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar

Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez

Member of Congress