CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2508 202-224-5721



COMMITTEES **APPROPRIATIONS**

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION. CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

September 19, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write regarding the status of two outstanding appeals pending before the FCC. Both cases pertain to funding adjustments for previously approved E-Rate projects in the state of Missouri. Neither entity has received a status update since filing appeals in early 2018.

Park Hill School District is one such entity, serving more than 11,000 students in Platte County. Despite Park Hill's compliance with stated FCC rules, and having followed guidance from FCC staff, USAC rescinded funds for the project. Another appeal, filed by the Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet), awaits consideration by the FCC. In this case, the FCC is reviewing the manner in which MOREnet calculated discounts on their applications, despite using the calculation method recommended by USAC for multiple application cycles. I previously inquired with the FCC on this case in November 2018.

Continued delays in this process will only exacerbate the financial uncertainty already faced by those awaiting a decision. Based on these outstanding cases, I request a status update and a response to the following questions. First, what is the expected timeline for concluding the appeals process for these two cases? In addition, how many unsettled cases currently remain in the FCC's appeals backlog?

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and look forward to your timely response to the aforementioned concerns. I am committed to working with the FCC to ensure that the E-Rate program meets its goals in Missouri and remains free of waste and abuse. However, it seems unreasonable to me that participants in this program should wait multiple years for decisions to be made on appeals for these projects.

Sincere regards.

United States Senator