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June 11, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write regarding a request that is pending before the Federal Communications Commission, filed on May 1, 2019 by the Lake County Education Service District (ESD). Lake County ESD is seeking a waiver of the Commission's rules for the service delivery deadline of a FY2017 lit fiber special construction funding request.

Located in south central Oregon, Lake County ESD operates in one of the most rural and underserved areas in the state. Large areas of Lake County lack adequate broadband and cellular connectivity. In 2018, Lake County ESD received an e-Rate funding commitment for the purposes of running fiber optic from Lakeview, Oregon to the Warner Valley. This broadband connection was intended to serve the rural, mountainous communities of Adel and Plush in the Warner Valley, two school districts that are woefully underserved by inadequate internet connections.

In its request, Lake County ESD notes that, while it has been working diligently with its partners to meet the Commission's service delivery deadline, circumstances beyond its control have plagued the installation process. Developments involving weather, access issues, permitting processes and other unforeseen issues have caused critical setbacks and delays to the installation of this critical fiber optic infrastructure through the Fremont-Winema National Forest. In the context of the statements and documents set forward in its request, Lake County ESD merely seeks an extension of the Commission's service delivery deadline to allow for the completion of the in-progress installation.

Lake County ESD and its partners have invested considerable resources in this effort to provide high-speed broadband services to students in south central Oregon's rural schools. Without the Commission's issuance of a waiver allowing for the project's completion, this important investment will be lost and these communities will continue to endure unnecessary delays in obtaining critical broadband access.

To this end, I respectfully ask that you give full, fair, and timely consideration to Lake County ESD's request. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Jacob Egler in my Bend office at (541) 330-9142.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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