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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write today to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promptly consider a pending Petition for Declaratory Ruling to clarify its existing pole attachment rules to help minimize broadband deployment barriers in underserved communities. Access to a reliable, high-speed internet connection is more critical than ever, and FCC action on this Petition could help bring more Americans online.

Much of the country's broadband infrastructure is carried by cables attached to utility poles, which provide a crucial link between many rural homes and businesses across the country. Given the critical nature of pole access, the FCC's pole attachment rules were developed at the direction of Congress to ensure fair and timely access. However, when it comes to actually deploying new broadband infrastructure, this process is too often complex and costly. The FCC's broad authority in this space should be employed to ensure a more predictable and equitable process.

Accordingly, I encourage the FCC to move quickly to clarify its existing rules regarding utility pole access. Such a clarification should ensure a transparent, fair, and fast process that considers the needs of pole owners and those who need to attach to them.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to working with you on increasing broadband access and closing the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress