

July 30, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write today regarding the April 26, 2019 petition from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) seeking permission from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take measures to prevent the depletion of the iconic 603 area code prefix. Specifically, NHPUC requests additional authority to implement individual telephone number (ITN) pooling in New Hampshire,¹ which would help more efficiently assign and better conserve numbers with the 603 prefix for years to come.

For individuals living in New Hampshire and for expat Granite Staters, 603 represents a connection to the values of our state and a way to show local pride. Many businesses have even trademarked 603 as part of their name.

To ensure the availability of 603 telephone numbers for future use, NHPUC seeks to test the implementation of ITN pooling to more efficiently use and assign telephone numbers. NHPUC's request in its petition to the FCC is not without precedent; the FCC has used pilot programs in the past to test a variety of initiatives, including rural health care,² telehealth,³ and broadband mapping.⁴

¹ *Numbering Res. Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, *Petition by the N.H. Pub. Utils. Comm'n for Additional Delegated Auth. to Implement No. Optimization Measures in the 603 Area Code* (Apr. 26, 2019).

² *Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 02-60, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 11,111 (2006).

³ *Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers; COVID-19 Telehealth Program*, WC Docket Nos. 18-213, 20-89, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 3,366 (2020)

⁴ Remarks of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai at USTelecom Forum on Reinventing Broadband Mapping (Mar. 29, 2019) (prepared remarks available at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairman-pai-remarks-ustelecom-forum-broadband-mapping>).

Because of the importance of 603 to New Hampshire's economy and cultural identity, we strongly support NHPUC's request for additional authorities to conserve 603 prefixes in order to make them available for more Granite Staters. We urge the FCC to fully and fairly consider the NHPUC petition and to respond in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress