



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

As Congress recognized with passage of Broadband DATA Act in March 2020, the first step toward connecting all Americans is ensuring that we have reliable and accurate information about where broadband service is and is not across the country. With better data we can target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, like universal service funding, to those unserved and underserved areas of the country where support is needed most. It will also help state and local governments and Tribal entities target similar efforts.

We have talked about this problem for years but lacked the necessary focus and determination to get it done. The good news is that Congress in late December 2020 provided the FCC with funding to support the Broadband DATA Act. This made it possible for the agency to develop the complex databases, systems, and processes required to collect, validate, and make the data available. After I became Acting Chairwoman, one of the very first actions I took was to assess the status of this effort. While this review made clear we had an enormous amount of work to do, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in just a few months.

In my first meeting as Acting Chairwoman, I announced the formation of the Broadband Data Task Force to coordinate and expedite the design and construction of new systems for collecting and verifying broadband deployment data. The Task Force is leading a cross-agency effort to implement the requirements of the Broadband DATA Act and kick-start our work to more accurately measure and reflect our nation's broadband needs.

Following the creation of the Task Force, we have taken several important steps. First, we have retained an expert data architect and design firm to work with the Commission's own data and IT systems specialists to assess our existing data and mapping systems. The vendor has already provided Commission staff with an initial data flow proposal for the new Broadband Data Collection systems and processes as well as a draft data architecture design. Second, we

have issued a Request for Information (RFI) to jump-start the contracting process for the creation of the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, a common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed. We have received responses to the RFI, held industry feedback sessions with multiple entities, and are quickly moving forward with the procurement process. We expect to issue a Request for Proposal, consistent with recommended government solicitation practices, shortly. Third, in light of these efforts, we have finalized the budget and spend plan for the funding that has been appropriated by Congress.

At the same time, we have increased consumer outreach efforts regarding broadband data gathering. To this end, we have developed and publicized a new web-based portal for consumers to share their broadband experiences and information about their efforts to secure service. We also have encouraged use of the FCC's speed test app, which in addition to providing consumers with information about their mobile broadband service, increases the amount of crowdsourced data that the Commission receives to assess the state of deployment nationwide.

I fully agree with you that state, local, and Tribal governments have a substantial role to play in this evolving broadband data collection effort. As a part of the framework we are developing, the FCC will provide systems and processes that empower state, local, and Tribal governments to verify and challenge the accuracy of the maps by sharing state and local data with the FCC. We already have engaged in discussions with a number of states and other governmental partners about the categories and types of information they have collected, including the sources, methodologies, and level of granularity associated with the data. We have also talked to these groups about how they might share relevant data with the FCC in a manner consistent with their own licensing and privacy obligations. As our systems and data specifications are developed, we will be reaching out to them to be sure that they are aware of the types and formats of data we will need to assure a consistent and standardized nationwide data collection. We also encourage these jurisdictions to ensure that their parcel records are fully digitized so that existing parcel data may be incorporated into the early development of the Broadband Data Fabric, a key component to the FCC's effort. Digitized property records will increase the initial accuracy of this work and also allow additional parcel data related to new construction to be added quickly. Going forward, the Commission will continue to explore other opportunities to collaborate with state and local governments and Tribal entities to build on our efforts to date.

I look forward to working with you and others in Congress as we continue to improve the Commission's broadband deployment data.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senate
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warnock:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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May 5, 2021

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

As Congress recognized with passage of Broadband DATA Act in March 2020, the first step toward connecting all Americans is ensuring that we have reliable and accurate information about where broadband service is and is not across the country. With better data we can target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, like universal service funding, to those unserved and underserved areas of the country where support is needed most. It will also help state and local governments and Tribal entities target similar efforts.

We have talked about this problem for years but lacked the necessary focus and determination to get it done. The good news is that Congress in late December 2020 provided the FCC with funding to support the Broadband DATA Act. This made it possible for the agency to develop the complex databases, systems, and processes required to collect, validate, and make the data available. After I became Acting Chairwoman, one of the very first actions I took was to assess the status of this effort. While this review made clear we had an enormous amount of work to do, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in just a few months.

In my first meeting as Acting Chairwoman, I announced the formation of the Broadband Data Task Force to coordinate and expedite the design and construction of new systems for collecting and verifying broadband deployment data. The Task Force is leading a cross-agency effort to implement the requirements of the Broadband DATA Act and kick-start our work to more accurately measure and reflect our nation's broadband needs.

Following the creation of the Task Force, we have taken several important steps. First, we have retained an expert data architect and design firm to work with the Commission's own data and IT systems specialists to assess our existing data and mapping systems. The vendor has already provided Commission staff with an initial data flow proposal for the new Broadband Data Collection systems and processes as well as a draft data architecture design. Second, we

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At the same time, we have increased consumer outreach efforts regarding broadband data gathering. To this end, we have developed and publicized a new web-based portal for consumers to share their broadband experiences and information about their efforts to secure service. We also have encouraged use of the FCC's speed test app, which in addition to providing consumers with information about their mobile broadband service, increases the amount of crowdsourced data that the Commission receives to assess the state of deployment nationwide.

I fully agree with you that state, local, and Tribal governments have a substantial role to play in this evolving broadband data collection effort. As a part of the framework we are developing, the FCC will provide systems and processes that empower state, local, and Tribal governments to verify and challenge the accuracy of the maps by sharing state and local data with the FCC. We already have engaged in discussions with a number of states and other governmental partners about the categories and types of information they have collected, including the sources, methodologies, and level of granularity associated with the data. We have also talked to these groups about how they might share relevant data with the FCC in a manner consistent with their own licensing and privacy obligations. As our systems and data specifications are developed, we will be reaching out to them to be sure that they are aware of the types and formats of data we will need to assure a consistent and standardized nationwide data collection. We also encourage these jurisdictions to ensure that their parcel records are fully digitized so that existing parcel data may be incorporated into the early development of the Broadband Data Fabric, a key component to the FCC's effort. Digitized property records will increase the initial accuracy of this work and also allow additional parcel data related to new construction to be added quickly. Going forward, the Commission will continue to explore other opportunities to collaborate with state and local governments and Tribal entities to build on our efforts to date.

I look forward to working with you and others in Congress as we continue to improve the Commission's broadband deployment data.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

As Congress recognized with passage of Broadband DATA Act in March 2020, the first step toward connecting all Americans is ensuring that we have reliable and accurate information about where broadband service is and is not across the country. With better data we can target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, like universal service funding, to those unserved and underserved areas of the country where support is needed most. It will also help state and local governments and Tribal entities target similar efforts.

We have talked about this problem for years but lacked the necessary focus and determination to get it done. The good news is that Congress in late December 2020 provided the FCC with funding to support the Broadband DATA Act. This made it possible for the agency to develop the complex databases, systems, and processes required to collect, validate, and make the data available. After I became Acting Chairwoman, one of the very first actions I took was to assess the status of this effort. While this review made clear we had an enormous amount of work to do, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in just a few months.

In my first meeting as Acting Chairwoman, I announced the formation of the Broadband Data Task Force to coordinate and expedite the design and construction of new systems for collecting and verifying broadband deployment data. The Task Force is leading a cross-agency effort to implement the requirements of the Broadband DATA Act and kick-start our work to more accurately measure and reflect our nation's broadband needs.

Following the creation of the Task Force, we have taken several important steps. First, we have retained an expert data architect and design firm to work with the Commission's own data and IT systems specialists to assess our existing data and mapping systems. The vendor has already provided Commission staff with an initial data flow proposal for the new Broadband Data Collection systems and processes as well as a draft data architecture design. Second, we

have issued a Request for Information (RFI) to jump-start the contracting process for the creation of the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, a common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed. We have received responses to the RFI, held industry feedback sessions with multiple entities, and are quickly moving forward with the procurement process. We expect to issue a Request for Proposal, consistent with recommended government solicitation practices, shortly. Third, in light of these efforts, we have finalized the budget and spend plan for the funding that has been appropriated by Congress.

At the same time, we have increased consumer outreach efforts regarding broadband data gathering. To this end, we have developed and publicized a new web-based portal for consumers to share their broadband experiences and information about their efforts to secure service. We also have encouraged use of the FCC's speed test app, which in addition to providing consumers with information about their mobile broadband service, increases the amount of crowdsourced data that the Commission receives to assess the state of deployment nationwide.

I fully agree with you that state, local, and Tribal governments have a substantial role to play in this evolving broadband data collection effort. As a part of the framework we are developing, the FCC will provide systems and processes that empower state, local, and Tribal governments to verify and challenge the accuracy of the maps by sharing state and local data with the FCC. We already have engaged in discussions with a number of states and other governmental partners about the categories and types of information they have collected, including the sources, methodologies, and level of granularity associated with the data. We have also talked to these groups about how they might share relevant data with the FCC in a manner consistent with their own licensing and privacy obligations. As our systems and data specifications are developed, we will be reaching out to them to be sure that they are aware of the types and formats of data we will need to assure a consistent and standardized nationwide data collection. We also encourage these jurisdictions to ensure that their parcel records are fully digitized so that existing parcel data may be incorporated into the early development of the Broadband Data Fabric, a key component to the FCC's effort. Digitized property records will increase the initial accuracy of this work and also allow additional parcel data related to new construction to be added quickly. Going forward, the Commission will continue to explore other opportunities to collaborate with state and local governments and Tribal entities to build on our efforts to date.

I look forward to working with you and others in Congress as we continue to improve the Commission's broadband deployment data.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to make the broadband deployment data it collects more accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for school, jobs, healthcare, and more. However, reliable high-speed internet connections are not available in every corner of the country. I believe this needs to be addressed and I share your commitment to finding ways to get 100 percent of Americans connected, no matter who they are or where they live.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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