CLAUDIA TENNEY MEMBER OF CONGRESS NEW YORK 22ND DISTRICT TENNEY, HOUSE, GOV



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Mashington, DC 20515–3222

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July 12, 2021

Ms. Jessica Rosenworcel Chairperson, Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairperson Rosenworcel:

I write today in support of Carolyn Price's application for a position on the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force. Ms. Price is a local government official in New York's 22nd Congressional District, whom I am honored to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As the Deputy Town Supervisor for the Town of Windsor, a rural community in upstate New York, and the President of the Upstate New York Towns Association, Carolyn is an ideal advocate for the broadband and technology needs of rural communities across the nation. Over the years that I have worked with Carolyn, she has taken her position in both roles head on, working tirelessly to deliver for her community and others like it across upstate New York.

From growing up in a farming family to representing numerous small farmers in Windsor and across the state, Carolyn has unparalleled first-hand knowledge of the importance that farming, and agriculture play in rural communities. Even more importantly, Carolyn has seen the increasing role that technology plays in the success of farming. From the use of internet to keep updated with the latest weather and news to ever growing precision GPS technologies that make farming even more efficient, Carolyn has witnessed the growth of technology. She understands better than most its importance to our farming communities and how best to deploy it.

I also know Carolyn to be a tireless champion and leading voice in upstate New York for rural broadband issues. In today's world, your internet connection can determine your destiny. It shapes your access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has only driven this point home. Many students have switched to remote learning and employees have moved increasingly to teleworking. This makes a high-speed, reliable internet connection invaluable, especially for rural communities. Carolyn understands this and has been a strong advocate for expanding rural broadband access. Even before the pandemic, Carolyn was working tirelessly to help upgrade the broadband capabilities in her community. With the lessons

WASHINGTON DC 1410 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225–3665 UTICA, NY 430 COURT STREET SUITE 102 UTICA, NY 13502 (315) 732–0713 Виланатол, NY 49 Court Street Suite 210 Виланатол, NY 13901 (607) 242–0200 learned over the past year, Carolyn has redoubled her efforts to deploy broadband throughout her rural community by deepening partnerships and seeking to attract new funding sources. In addition to her lifetime of practical and professional experiences, Carolyn has also taken important steps to advance her own education and expertise. Currently, Carolyn is enrolled in the Online Ed.D. Program in Learning and Organizational Change at Baylor University. Her proposed dissertation is on the critical importance of closing the broadband digital divide.

If selected to this task force, Carolyn would bring a unique perspective to this issue. She is not only steeped in the agricultural traditions of rural communities, but also a local government official who understands how policy intersects with actual needs of rural America. She will be an exceptionally capable voice for not only her community, but for many others like it across our nation that have been left behind. It is my hope that you will consider fully Carolyn's application and credentials. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at my Utica District Office at 315-732-0713. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Claudia Tennen

CLAUDIA TENNEY Member of Congress