



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

HUD, USDA, and the FCC recognize that expanding access to broadband connectivity requires a multi-pronged, cross-agency effort and our agencies are committed to ongoing collaboration to close the digital divide. To that end, we have collaborated on several efforts to increase Lifeline enrollment among federally subsidized renters and homeowners and to share relevant data between our organizations. Through this collaboration, we established promising practices for conducting outreach and introducing the Lifeline program to households across our federally subsidized housing programs.

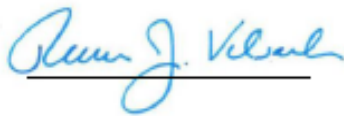
The first step to connecting all Americans is ensuring that we have reliable and detailed data on which areas of the country are currently served with broadband and, more importantly, which areas lack service. Congress in late December 2020 provided funding to support the FCC's effort implementing the Broadband DATA Act, which will give the federal government a powerful tool that integrates data from many different sources, to more accurately measure and reflect our country's broadband needs. Using data and maps created through the FCC's Broadband Data Collection (BDC), our agencies will be able to collaborate with each other to better target resources to low-income communities and expand broadband access.

Our agencies have also demonstrated experience working together to expand broadband access and remain committed to this partnership to further this goal. USDA and the FCC, for example, have worked together to increase investment in rural broadband, while coordinating to ensure that limited government funds do not overlap across our agencies' funding opportunities. To that end, the FCC, USDA, and the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) announced an interagency agreement earlier this summer to share information about and coordinate the distribution of federal broadband deployment funds. The

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Our agencies are committed to expanding broadband access to the millions of unconnected low-income families and making broadband accessible to all Americans, and as we look towards connecting 100% of our country, we look forward to continuing this partnership to achieve our shared goals.

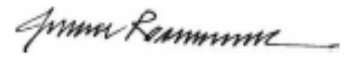
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and
Urban Development



Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



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Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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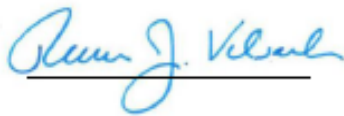
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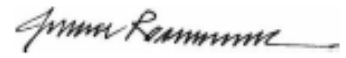
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
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Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
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Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

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

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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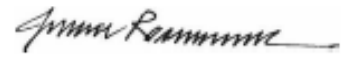
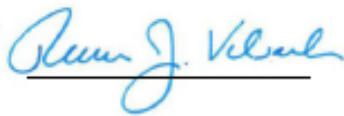
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Sincerely,



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U.S. Department of
Agriculture

Marcia Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and
Urban Development

Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
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November 10, 2021

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

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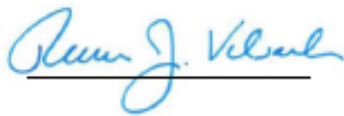
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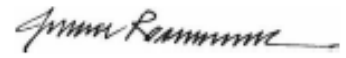
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Jessica Rosenworcel
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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November 10, 2021

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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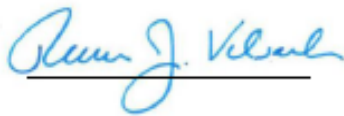
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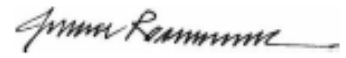
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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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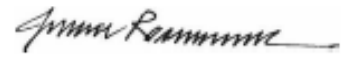
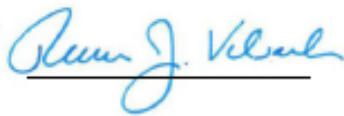
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November 10, 2021

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

Dear Senator Durbin:

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

Dear Senator Smith:

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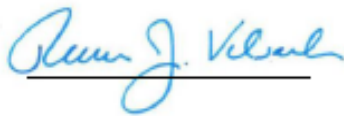
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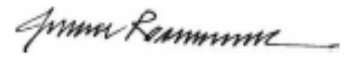
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and
Urban Development



Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

HUD, USDA, and the FCC recognize that expanding access to broadband connectivity requires a multi-pronged, cross-agency effort and our agencies are committed to ongoing collaboration to close the digital divide. To that end, we have collaborated on several efforts to increase Lifeline enrollment among federally subsidized renters and homeowners and to share relevant data between our organizations. Through this collaboration, we established promising practices for conducting outreach and introducing the Lifeline program to households across our federally subsidized housing programs.

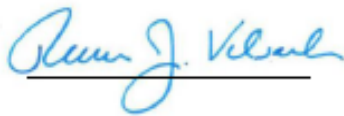
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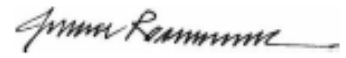
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
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Urban Development



Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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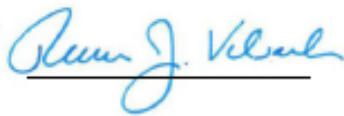
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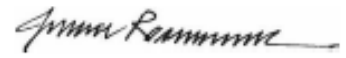
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
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Urban Development



Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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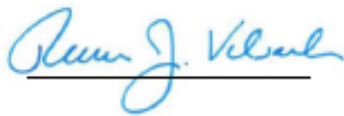
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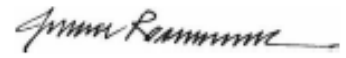
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
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Marcia Fudge
Secretary
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Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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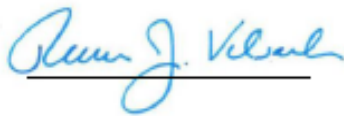
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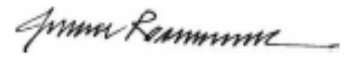
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
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Marcia Fudge
Secretary
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Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senate
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lujan:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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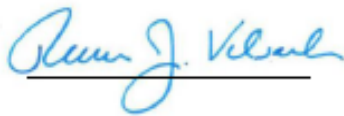
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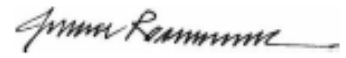
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Marcia Fudge
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Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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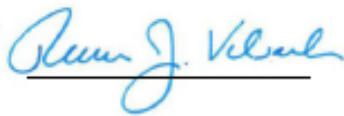
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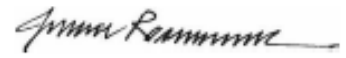
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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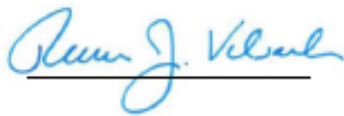
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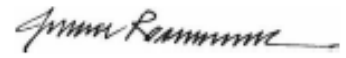
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Marcia Fudge
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Jessica Rosenworcel
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 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 opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

HUD, USDA, and the FCC recognize that expanding access to broadband connectivity requires a multi-pronged, cross-agency effort and our agencies are committed to ongoing collaboration to close the digital divide. To that end, we have collaborated on several efforts to increase Lifeline enrollment among federally subsidized renters and homeowners and to share relevant data between our organizations. Through this collaboration, we established promising practices for conducting outreach and introducing the Lifeline program to households across our federally subsidized housing programs.

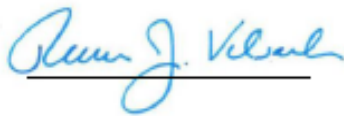
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Our agencies have also demonstrated experience working together to expand broadband access and remain committed to this partnership to further this goal. USDA and the FCC, for example, have worked together to increase investment in rural broadband, while coordinating to ensure that limited government funds do not overlap across our agencies' funding opportunities. To that end, the FCC, USDA, and the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) announced an interagency agreement earlier this summer to share information about and coordinate the distribution of federal broadband deployment funds. The

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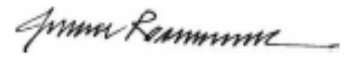
Sincerely,



Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Marcia Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and
Urban Development



Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications
Commission



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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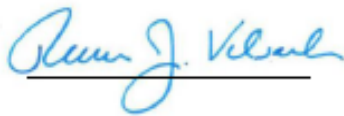
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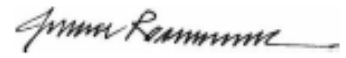
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Marcia Fudge
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC 20250



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

Thank you for your letter regarding opportunities for greater collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st century and should be available to everyone in this country.

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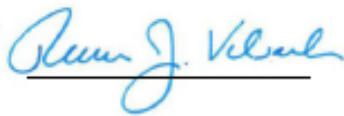
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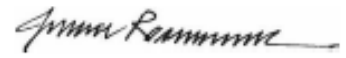
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC 20410



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

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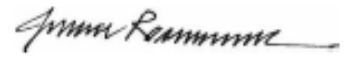
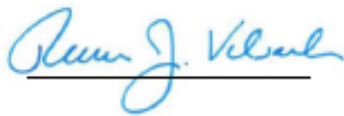
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