

September 27, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

We write to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase 1 auction. As you are aware, over 400 bidders were awarded \$9.2 billion dollars to help deploy broadband to 5.2 million unserved locations throughout rural America. Unfortunately, nine months have passed since the auction ended, and the successful bidders have received very little direction or updates from the FCC.

Now more than ever, reliable internet is essential for economic growth and individual opportunity. RDOF is a crucial initiative to bridge the digital divide and expand broadband internet access throughout underserved areas. This auction was necessary to create competition that would result in more rural localities receiving affordable broadband.

Today, we respectfully request that the FCC provide an update on where you are in the long-form application review process. The awardees across the United States are ready and willing to build the infrastructure that will finally bring reliable internet connectivity to rural America, but until the review is finished, and Rural Digital Opportunity Funds are released, states do not have the ability to plan for the development phase. The delays are passing costs onto the successful bidders, requiring them to pay out of pocket to be fully prepared for the development and construction phases.

Every day the FCC does not provide direction, more and more Americans will go longer without broadband that is essential for their daily lives. While we understand this can be a complex process, the FCC's evaluation of long-form applications must become more transparent and efficient. To bring clarity and reassurance to the successful bidders, we ask that you provide us with answers to the following questions no later than October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021:

1. How many long-form applications have been approved and how many are currently being reviewed? How many long-form applications have been denied?
2. Will the FCC complete its review of all long-form applications and begin authorizing funds for RDOF Phase 1 auction winners by the end of 2021?
3. Will the FCC authorize funds on a rolling basis each month?

4. How is the FCC actively working to ensure transparency and efficiency in its long-form application review?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



David Trone  
Member of Congress

/S/      

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Tony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Andrew Clyde  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Ben Cline  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Jerry Carl  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

      /S/      

Bob Good  
Member of Congress