



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Mike Braun  
United States Senate  
374 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Braun:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

The Report includes discussion, as you request in your letter, of the costs of data transportation and their impact on rural providers. It recommends that the Commission initiate a proceeding to consider the future support needs of networks serving high-cost areas, and in doing so assess what continuing support is needed to develop, maintain and improve broadband operations in those locations. The Report suggests that the Commission “could consider the creation of a process to support operating costs that are not recoverable from revenues earned . . . and from other sources of income, e.g., governmental grants.”

In addition, the Report includes discussion of middle-mile development in high-cost areas. It makes note of the fact that Section 60401 of the Infrastructure Act provides \$1 billion in funding to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to establish a Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program to award “grants on a technologically-neutral, competitive basis to eligible entities for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.” The Report recommends that the Commission “engage with NTIA on this program, and then study its results and its implications on for High Cost and the other universal service programs.”

Finally, the Report includes discussion of whether the Universal Service Fund contribution base should be broadened to include “edge providers,” such as streaming video providers or major digital advertisers, which are by many accounts responsible for a significant volume of traffic on networks serving high-cost areas.

I look forward to working with you and others in Congress toward our shared goal of closing the digital divide and bringing high-speed, reliable broadband to everyone, everywhere.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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September 8, 2022

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
United States Senate  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Marshall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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September 8, 2022

The Honorable Jim Risch  
United States Senate  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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September 8, 2022

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lummis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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September 8, 2022

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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September 8, 2022

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the future of the Universal Service Fund. I understand and share your interest in ensuring that the Fund best serves the goal of closing the digital divide, particularly in rural America.

As you know, Section 60104(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructs the Commission to submit to Congress “a report on options of the Commission for improving its effectiveness in achieving the universal service goals for broadband in light of this Act . . . and other legislation that addresses those goals.” On December 15, 2021, the Commission initiated a proceeding seeking comment on issues related to the future of the Fund in light of the broadband investments in the Infrastructure Act. On August 12, 2022, the Commission adopted the Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund and transmitted it to Congress.

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September 8, 2022

The Honorable James Lankford  
United States Senate  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

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