



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2421 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mullin:

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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Jim Baird  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Baird:

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 Mariannette Miller-Meeks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1716 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller-Meeks:

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 Pete Stauber  
U.S. House of Representatives  
461 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stauber:

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 David B. McKinley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McKinley:

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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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Mike Bost  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1211 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bost:

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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CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Kat Cammack  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1626 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cammack:

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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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Pat Fallon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fallon:

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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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Randy Feenstra  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Feenstra:

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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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Earl L. Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carter:

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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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2402 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

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 Kevin Hern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1019 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hern:

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 Tracey Mann  
U.S. House of Representatives  
522 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mann:

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September 8, 2022

The Honorable Jake LaTurner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1630 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaTurner:

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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cole:

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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Sharice Davids  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1541 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Davids:

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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
U.S. House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

September 8, 2022

The Honorable John Rose  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1124 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rose:

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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