



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

December 19, 2022

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

Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

The COVID-19 pandemic made evident what many Americans already knew: a lack of broadband access poses a major risk to the health, economic activity, and education potential of rural Americans. The pandemic required significant parts of daily life to shift to the internet, like school, work, and doctor's visits. Throughout the closures stemming from the public health crisis, many of my constituents were negatively impacted by a lack of reliable internet access. Rural Americans need swift action on broadband buildout solutions, so they are no longer held back by the lack of service in their area. Outdated regulations are standing in the way of Congress's plans to connect more unserved Americans to the internet.

We support the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recent proposed rule regarding the process of attaching and replacing utility poles. The high costs and long waits imposed by pole owners on telecommunications providers slow down broadband expansion in rural America. Enacting common sense reforms that promote fair and timely access to poles, quick resolution of pole attachment complaints, and fair allocation of costs between pole owners and attachers will ensure reliable internet access is expanded into hard-to-reach parts of our country. It's important that these changes are made as quickly and effectively as possible. We are ready and willing to work with the Commission to ensure that support is expedited, and resources are properly distributed.

We are encouraged by the FCC's recognition of just how critical broadband access is to rural communities and your commitment to addressing this deficit. We look forward to seeing other reforms that streamline and expedite the process of building out broadband infrastructure, particularly in underserved communities. Our constituents are counting on policy changes to help bring broadband, and all its benefits, to their communities.

Sincerely,

MIKE CAREY
Member of Congress

DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress