

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

February 16, 2023

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The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I appreciate the Commission's ongoing attention to utility pole regulations and broadband access. Broadband deployment frequently relies on attachments to utility poles in order to reach unserved, often rural communities in Wisconsin. Disputes over allocation of costs for accessing utility poles can be costly and time-consuming, leading to administrative delay while Wisconsinites continue to wait for high-speed broadband access. Wisconsin is on the cusp of closing its digital divide through Congress' historic investment in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. In light of these pending investments, the Commission is right to focus on pole attachments and I urge the Commission to move expeditiously to clarify these rules.

Successful implementation of the BEAD program will depend on timely agency action and coordination. Fair and expeditious consideration of the comments in response to the proposed rulemaking regarding pole attachments is necessary to ensure that BEAD funding is used effectively and benefits unserved and underserved communities across Wisconsin. I urge the FCC to move forward with clarifying these rules to ensure that there is a transparent, fair and fast process that considers the needs of pole owners and attachers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Brendan Carr  
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks  
The Honorable Nathan Simington