



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

April 3, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission to promote broadband deployment and competition—specifically as it relates to our pole attachment rules and processes. I agree that the Commission should be doing everything it can to speed the deployment of broadband to all areas of the country and that ensuring there is a transparent, fair, and fast pole attachment process that considers the needs of pole owners and attachers is a key part of that effort. I realize this is especially important in rural areas of Wisconsin, including the northeast corner of the state, where it appears that many households lack access to high-speed broadband connections.

As you are aware, last year the Commission unanimously adopted a rulemaking that sought comment on questions concerning the allocation of pole replacement costs between utilities and attachers. In particular, we sought comment about whether we need to provide greater clarity when a pole must be replaced to accommodate new communications equipment and on other complex economic and legal issues that may arise with pole replacements. The rulemaking also sought comment on whether there are other reforms we can make to speed up the process for negotiations over pole replacements and attachments, recognizing that certainty is good both for the providers seeking to build broadband networks and for the electric companies that own most utility poles.

Commission staff is currently reviewing the record in this proceeding. Please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission deliberates on the appropriate course of action.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Rosenworcel