

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2023

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

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I write to you regarding the status of the FCC's proposed rule, Accelerating Wireline and Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment.<sup>1</sup> Comments on this second notice of further proposed rulemaking were due on June 27, 2022, and reply comments were due on July 27, 2022.<sup>2</sup> Seven months have passed, and the FCC has not yet issued a final rule. I urge you to prioritize issuing a final rule to set clear standards on cost sharing of upgrades and replacements to utility poles.

In your statement on this rulemaking, you wrote "we can't afford to have access to utility poles become an impediment to broadband deployment."<sup>3</sup> You further added, "[i]t's essential that we have policies in place that make sure [high-speed infrastructure] dollars are used in a cost-effective way and that pole attachment policies facilitate, rather than impede, broadband buildout."<sup>4</sup> Commissioner Brendan Carr noted, "the more clarity we can provide with regard to pole replacements, the faster access to poles can be granted and the faster families can get connected" to the Internet.<sup>5</sup>

I agree with you and Commissioner Carr that the FCC needs to provide standards on the issue of cost-sharing between pole owners and attachers for replacements and attachments. I am hopeful that such action will ensure reliable internet access to under- and unserved areas of Wisconsin as promptly and efficiently as possible. While I understand this is a complex issue, I am disappointed the FCC has not issued a final rule seven months after closing comments on the second notice. I encourage the FCC to quickly issue a final rule.

Sincerely,



Senator Ron Johnson

<sup>1</sup> Accelerating Wireline and Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, 87 Fed. Reg. 25181 (proposed Apr. 28, 2022) (to be codified at 47 C.F.R. pt. 1).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Statement of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, F.C.C. (Mar. 16, 2022), *available at* <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-resolving-disputes-over-pole-replacement-costs/rosenworcel-statement>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Statement of Commissioner Brendan Carr, F.C.C. (Mar. 16, 2022), *available at* <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-resolving-disputes-over-pole-replacement-costs/carr-statement>.

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cc: Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks  
Commissioner Nathan Simington