November 20, 2023

The Honorable Neal Patrick Dunn
U.S. House of Representatives
466 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

Thank you for your letter regarding the work to develop an iterative National Broadband Map at the Federal Communications Commission. Today, broadband service is vital for school, work, healthcare, and more. Connecting everyone to high-speed service is essential for everyone, everywhere to have the opportunities made possible by the digital age. That is why I share your commitment to making sure that broadband connectivity is available across the country.

As Congress recognized in the Broadband DATA Act, we need to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. With better data, we can more precisely target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, including the Commission's universal service funding system and the grant projects in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to areas where support is needed most. Better data will also help other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Tribal entities target their own broadband mapping and deployment efforts.

Since the passage of the Broadband DATA Act in March 2020, the Commission has worked aggressively to implement the requirements of the law and to begin the iterative data collection and challenge processes through the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) program envisioned by the Act. The BDC is a significant departure from the Commission's previous Form 477 process used for identifying the state of broadband deployment. The Form 477 process, which was used by the agency in various formats for decades, collected data only at the census-block level. If there was a single subscriber in the census block, the agency assumed service was available throughout. As a result, the Form 477 process systematically overstated the presence of broadband, particularly in rural areas. In addition, this process lacked a mechanism to verify that data based on the on-the-ground experience of consumers and other stakeholders.

This is no longer the case. As required by the Broadband DATA Act, the Commission has built an entirely new data-collection system for ingesting, validating, and aggregating provider data for download and publication on the National Broadband Map. This system is also designed to incorporate data submitted by individual consumers and by State and Tribal governments and other stakeholders challenging a provider's availability submissions at

particular locations. This process is designed to be iterative, with each new version of the map providing a more accurate and up-to-date picture of where broadband services are nationwide. The initial pre-production draft of the map you reference in your letter, which was released in November 2022, has since been updated in May 2023 and most recently this past week in November 2023. The most recent iteration of the map reflects provider-reported availability data as of June 30, 2023.

I appreciate your concern about the ability of governments, providers, and others to participate in the challenge processes designed to improve the accuracy of the location and availability data shown on the National Broadband Map. At the outset, I want to assure you that I share your belief that individuals and local governments are best positioned to know what services are available at the places where they live and work. We will continue using all the tools available to the Commission to update and improve the map, including: improvements to the underlying data used to identify broadband serviceable locations, collecting updated broadband availability data every six months, processing challenges to the data shown on the map and validating the data providers are filing.

Given the importance of the challenge process in refining the data depicted on the map and ensuring that the map is as accurate as possible, we have conducted extensive outreach to state, local, and Tribal governmental entities, service providers, and others to inform stakeholders about how they can participate in the process. I personally reached out to broadband leaders in all 56 states and territories to encourage their participation in the location and availability challenges to the National Broadband Map. Commission staff have held hundreds of meetings with congressional offices, service providers, public interest groups, and governmental entities across the nation to be sure we are offering support throughout the BDC process. This includes over 250 meetings with state broadband offices and other organizations representing local governments, as well as over ninety meetings with tribal entities. We also responded to more than 8,000 technical assistance requests from internet providers and challengers. We have also made available 23 web tutorials, one-pagers, FAQs, data specifications, and over a hundred knowledge base articles to walk consumers and bulk challengers through the entire availability challenge process. We have hosted nine webinars and technical assistance workshops, to help entities participate in the bulk processes. The Commission will continue to engage with states, local governments, and others to ensure they can efficiently and effectively navigate the challenge processes with each iteration of the map going forward.

Consistent with the Broadband DATA Act, twice a year the agency releases an updated broadband Fabric, which is a database of all broadband serviceable locations in the United States. The Fabric is developed using hundreds of data sources, including tax records, property records, parcel boundary records, and satellite building imagery.

Following the release of each updated Fabric, providers are required to supply information about the service they provide at each broadband serviceable location. The combination of this information and the Fabric database leads to the production of each map.

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These additional locations are primarily the result of our work with the vendor to update and improve the Fabric by refining the models and processes for creating the Fabric and using updated and improved input data sources such as new parcel data. The current version of the Fabric also incorporates millions of adjustments to the data associated with locations that were already included in earlier versions of the Fabric, including, for example, changes to address fields, unit counts, secondary addresses, broadband serviceable location status, and building and land use codes. Stakeholders are also helping to improve the Fabric through the challenge process. Over 1.5 million challenges have been accepted and incorporated into the Fabric. These challenges have been critical to identifying missing locations and correcting addresses and other information associated with the broadband serviceable locations included in the Fabric. These ongoing efforts to improve the Fabric will continue and remain an important tool for the improvement of the National Broadband Map

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I am happy to report that there has been robust participation in the availability challenge process that has been underway since the pre-production draft map was released in November 2022. To date, our mapping team has reviewed more than 4.8 million challenges to provider reported availability data. These challenges have already yielded important changes in the map data and I anticipate that, over time, the challenge process will continue to serve to correct any remaining inaccuracies in the current iteration of the map.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Jack Bergman
U.S. House of Representatives
566 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bergman:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Luetkemeyer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the work to develop an iterative National Broadband Map at the Federal Communications Commission. Today, broadband service is vital for school, work, healthcare, and more. Connecting everyone to high-speed service is essential for everyone, everywhere to have the opportunities made possible by the digital age. That is why I share your commitment to making sure that broadband connectivity is available across the country.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Mike Ezell
U.S. House of Representatives
443 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ezell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the work to develop an iterative National Broadband Map at the Federal Communications Commission. Today, broadband service is vital for school, work, healthcare, and more. Connecting everyone to high-speed service is essential for everyone, everywhere to have the opportunities made possible by the digital age. That is why I share your commitment to making sure that broadband connectivity is available across the country.

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As Congress recognized in the Broadband DATA Act, we need to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. With better data, we can more precisely target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, including the Commission's universal service funding system and the grant projects in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to areas where support is needed most. Better data will also help other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Tribal entities target their own broadband mapping and deployment efforts.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

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

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
U.S. House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chavez-DeRemer:

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Sincerely,

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November 20, 2023

The Honorable C. Scott Franklin
U.S. House of Representatives
249 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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2421 Rayburn House Office Building
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As Congress recognized in the Broadband DATA Act, we need to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. With better data, we can more precisely target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, including the Commission's universal service funding system and the grant projects in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to areas where support is needed most. Better data will also help other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Tribal entities target their own broadband mapping and deployment efforts.

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particular locations. This process is designed to be iterative, with each new version of the map providing a more accurate and up-to-date picture of where broadband services are nationwide. The initial pre-production draft of the map you reference in your letter, which was released in November 2022, has since been updated in May 2023 and most recently this past week in November 2023. The most recent iteration of the map reflects provider-reported availability data as of June 30, 2023.

I appreciate your concern about the ability of governments, providers, and others to participate in the challenge processes designed to improve the accuracy of the location and availability data shown on the National Broadband Map. At the outset, I want to assure you that I share your belief that individuals and local governments are best positioned to know what services are available at the places where they live and work. We will continue using all the tools available to the Commission to update and improve the map, including: improvements to the underlying data used to identify broadband serviceable locations, collecting updated broadband availability data every six months, processing challenges to the data shown on the map and validating the data providers are filing.

Given the importance of the challenge process in refining the data depicted on the map and ensuring that the map is as accurate as possible, we have conducted extensive outreach to state, local, and Tribal governmental entities, service providers, and others to inform stakeholders about how they can participate in the process. I personally reached out to broadband leaders in all 56 states and territories to encourage their participation in the location and availability challenges to the National Broadband Map. Commission staff have held hundreds of meetings with congressional offices, service providers, public interest groups, and governmental entities across the nation to be sure we are offering support throughout the BDC process. This includes over 250 meetings with state broadband offices and other organizations representing local governments, as well as over ninety meetings with tribal entities. We also responded to more than 8,000 technical assistance requests from internet providers and challengers. We have also made available 23 web tutorials, one-pagers, FAQs, data specifications, and over a hundred knowledge base articles to walk consumers and bulk challengers through the entire availability challenge process. We have hosted nine webinars and technical assistance workshops, to help entities participate in the bulk processes. The Commission will continue to engage with states, local governments, and others to ensure they can efficiently and effectively navigate the challenge processes with each iteration of the map going forward.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

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

Dear Representative Newhouse:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Michael Lawler
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawler:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

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

Dear Representative Bost:

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1630 Longworth House Office Building
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Dear Representative Langworthy:

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As Congress recognized in the Broadband DATA Act, we need to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. With better data, we can more precisely target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, including the Commission's universal service funding system and the grant projects in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to areas where support is needed most. Better data will also help other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Tribal entities target their own broadband mapping and deployment efforts.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Brad Finstad
U.S. House of Representatives
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Finstad:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

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

Dear Representative Carter:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Drew Ferguson
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ferguson:

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244 Cannon House Office Building
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As Congress recognized in the Broadband DATA Act, we need to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. With better data, we can more precisely target our policymaking efforts and financial resources, including the Commission's universal service funding system and the grant projects in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to areas where support is needed most. Better data will also help other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Tribal entities target their own broadband mapping and deployment efforts.

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I am happy to report that there has been robust participation in the availability challenge process that has been underway since the pre-production draft map was released in November 2022. To date, our mapping team has reviewed more than 4.8 million challenges to provider reported availability data. These challenges have already yielded important changes in the map data and I anticipate that, over time, the challenge process will continue to serve to correct any remaining inaccuracies in the current iteration of the map.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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