The Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
242 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Representative Cherfilus-McCormick:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission’s draft Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking comment on improving competitive broadband access in multiple tenant environments.

As you know, too often households in apartments, condominiums, and other multi-tenant buildings are required to pay high prices baked into their lease agreements with limited choices for internet or other services. Many consumers have complained to the Commission about “bulk billing” arrangements, which can subject tenants to unwanted fees, forcing them to pay for a specific broadband provider or service plan. I have proposed that we begin a rulemaking to allow consumers to simply opt-out of these arrangements. This rulemaking, which I have shared with my colleagues, has the potential to empower consumer choice and boost competition, as well as build on the agency’s ongoing efforts to improve broadband transparency.

As you note in your letter, the last time the Commission revisited this issue was in 2010, when it found that these arrangements can predominately offer benefits to consumers. I agree that it is important to take that last record into account. However, a lot can change in 14 years and, as is true with many policies in the telecommunications sector, it is often in the public interest to reexamine long-standing policies to ensure they have kept up with changes in technology and the marketplace, especially when it comes to consumer protection and choice. I believe that the draft Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking provides an opportunity to build a record on these matters that reflects the consumer experience today, and that is why it is important to have the public weigh in on these issues.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel