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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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FCC Mail Room

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Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0005

Chairman Wheeler,

As the U.S. Representative for Arizona's District One, I write to lend my support to Navajo Pillars Telecommunications, Inc. (NPT), a minority-owned business that is applying for Eligible Telecommunication Carrier designation. NPT submitted a petition to the FCC in September 2013, and I encourage you to carefully consider the request.

Telecommunications infrastructure is critical to a stable economy and is long overdue in the most remote areas of my district. Without access to telecommunications, rural areas face significant barriers to economic development and educational and health-care resources.

NPT plans to deploy a telecommunications network in an area of the Navajo Nation where broadband service has never been made available, namely the Smoke Signal and Blue Gap Chapter House. The ETC designation will enable NPT to receive financial support from the FCC's universal service program and make them eligible to apply for a loan from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service.

My vision for Arizona's 1st Congressional District is a diversified, stable economy – and telecommunications is an integral part of this. We need to ensure that struggling rural communities are able to expand access for their residents, schools, health-care providers and businesses. I urge your cooperation in designating NPT for ETC status.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One