



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter in support of an Alaska-specific solution for rate-of-return and competitive carriers that serve Alaska. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America, including Alaska, have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. We are focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas within the confines of our Connect America budget, while providing increased certainty and predictability for all carriers and a climate for increased broadband expansion.

I can assure you that I am very much aware of the proposal by the Alaska carriers. In fact, since becoming Chairman, I have heard from many carriers about the unique operating conditions and challenges faced by those serving Alaska. A framework tailored to these unique circumstances merits serious consideration. Commission staff are actively reviewing the Alaska specific solutions that have been proposed and I expect the Commission to address this important issue in the near future. In the meantime, I look forward to working with you as we continue the work of reforming and modernizing the high-cost universal service fund program – as well as other components of the Fund – to ensure that all Americans have access to robust voice and broadband services.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter in support of an Alaska-specific solution for rate-of-return and competitive carriers that serve Alaska. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America, including Alaska, have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. We are focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas within the confines of our Connect America budget, while providing increased certainty and predictability for all carriers and a climate for increased broadband expansion.

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OFFICE OF
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March 1, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter in support of an Alaska-specific solution for rate-of-return and competitive carriers that serve Alaska. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America, including Alaska, have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. We are focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas within the confines of our Connect America budget, while providing increased certainty and predictability for all carriers and a climate for increased broadband expansion.

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