



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

On February 12, I circulated an Order to modernize universal support for rate-of-return carriers. The proposed Order sets forth a package of reforms to address rate-of-return issues that are fundamentally intertwined—the need to modernize the program to provide support for stand-alone broadband service; the need to improve incentives for broadband investment to connect unserved rural Americans; and the need to strengthen the rate-of-return system to provide certainty and stability for years to come. A Further Notice included with the Order would specifically seek comment on additional reforms, including the Tribal Broadband Factor proposal you reference in your letter, to further incentivize broadband investment and deployment on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Once we have a full record, I intend to take action before the end of the year to further promote broadband deployment on tribal lands.

I recognize that the challenges before us are great. But working together, we will seize upon technological opportunities to improve lives across Indian Country. 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 21, 2016

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cole:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DelBene:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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OFFICE OF
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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to consider a proposal for targeted investments in broadband infrastructure on unserved and underserved Tribal lands. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree with your view that access to broadband technology is critical for Tribal communities to participate fully in today's economy. I personally have seen the lack of communications services and infrastructure across Indian Country. The lack of services and infrastructure reinforces a history of isolation that has limited economic and educational opportunities. That is why expanding high-speed broadband connections to all corners of the country is a top priority for the Commission. Nowhere could meeting this objective be more impactful than on Tribal lands.

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