

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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September 6, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Chairman Pai:

In March 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted key rules for a competitive reverse auction of remaining funds under the Connect America Fund, which will provide nearly \$2 billion to expand broadband access in rural America. We look forward to the FCC quickly completing its next steps to implement the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF-II) auction and we discourage any efforts to delay implementation.

Rural areas throughout our state, particularly in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, face major challenges when it comes to broadband access. In adopting its final rules for the CAF-II auction, the FCC has considered these challenges and conducted a thorough review of a detailed and extensive record. The final rules reflect a balanced approach that will help ensure all broadband technologies can bid competitively. While there is still work to be done to finalize and implement the CAF-II auction, we are concerned about efforts to delay the FCC's ongoing work or alter the adopted rules. Additionally, we urge the Commission to adopt robust screens before the auction starts to prevent ineligible bidders from participating. Reviewing all technical information before the auction begins will prevent fraud and help protect consumers in unserved areas.

Thank you again for your commitment to closing the digital divide in Michigan and across our nation. The CAF-II auction rules are an important part of the FCC's work to provide essential broadband access to every American. We look forward to the FCC swiftly completing its next steps in the CAF-II auction so that rural Michiganders can soon benefit from these efforts.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator