



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2079 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in urban areas. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

I agree with you that far too many rural Pennsylvanians lack broadband access, and I applaud recent state efforts to close the digital divide throughout the Commonwealth. Indeed, we've structured the CAF Phase II auction so states are able to provide matching funds toward broadband deployment over and above the federal funding. If your state did this, such funds would increase the incentive for providers to invest in Pennsylvania and bring new service to those without—likely increasing the quality of service as well as the federal funding for rural parts of the state. Because the petition before the Commission did not explain why such matching efforts were insufficient to accomplish the Commonwealth's goals given our interest in maximizing the effectiveness of our universal service dollars for all Americans, the Commission denied the request in January.

I should note, however, that the CAF Phase II auction is not the only opportunity to ensure broadband reaches all Pennsylvanians. In 2019, we will move on to the Remote Areas Fund for those areas still without high-speed broadband—and we will ensure that any funding originally intended for rural Pennsylvania will be available to build there in that second auction.

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

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in urban areas. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Keith Rothfus
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rothfus:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Lloyd K. Smucker
U.S. House of Representatives
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smucker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Lou Barletta
U.S. House of Representatives
2049 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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OFFICE OF
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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Patrick Meehan
U.S. House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meehan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Toomey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

In my first remarks to FCC staff as Chairman, I declared that my highest priority would be making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. Rural Americans deserve the same digital access as those living in urban areas. That is why I am pleased the Commission is moving forward with the CAF Phase II auction in July, taking the necessary steps to kickstart this \$2 billion program. Through that auction, providers in every state will have a full and fair opportunity to bid for funding to build out high-speed Internet access to unserved rural Americans.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF Phase II) competitive bidding process rules.

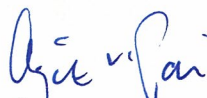
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Ajit V. Pai

*P.S. Congressman, great to see
you recently!*



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perry:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Tom Marino
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marino:

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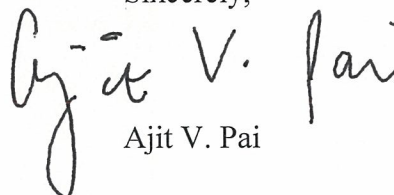
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