



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

My colleagues and predecessors at the Commission worked hard to develop the landmark Universal Service Fund (USF) reforms adopted in 2011. The work to implement the reforms to date has included the steps you note to temporarily relieve the impacts of the QRA benchmarks on small rate-of-return carriers. At the first Open Meeting that I held as Chairman last week, the Wireline and Wireless Bureaus and the Office of Native Affairs and Policy provided the Commission with a status update on USF reform implementation. I was impressed with the work they have done to get broadband to millions of people for the first time, but I know much work remains.

The Commission has unanimously adopted a vision for a broadband-focused Universal Service Fund. We must of course be open to modifications to the reforms if it is clear that particular rules are not serving their intended purpose. Commissioner Clyburn said it best, "We should remain open to pursuing course corrections where necessary." Where we are making progress we will continue moving full steam ahead. Where the reforms are not achieving their intended goals, we will make changes based on sound data.

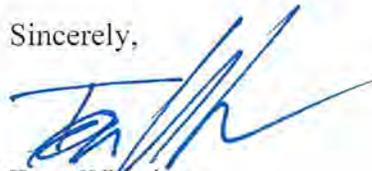
Assuring that the opportunities of the new network extend to all Americans is one of the principal challenges we face at the FCC. We exist at an important moment when the USF is evolving to support 21st century services. I know I speak for all my colleagues in saying we look forward to continuing the work of reforming and modernizing the USF high-cost program – as

Page 2—The Honorable Kelly Ayotte

well as other components of the Fund – and to working with stakeholders including rural carriers and consumers, 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,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Max S. Baucus
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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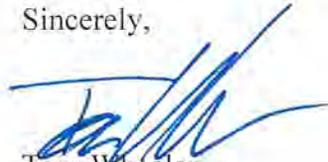
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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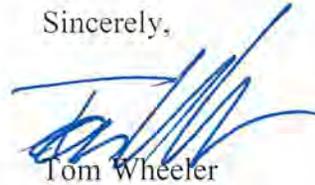
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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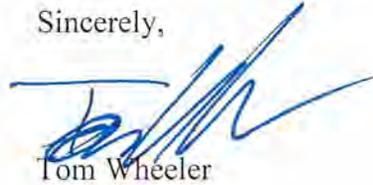
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Page 2—The Honorable Michael Bennet

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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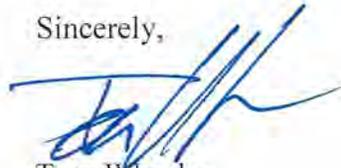
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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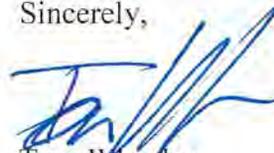
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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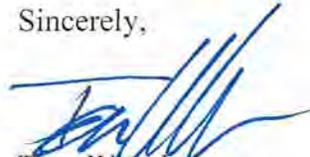
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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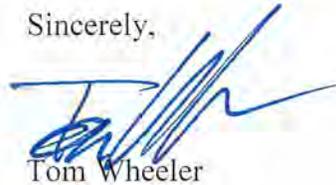
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senate
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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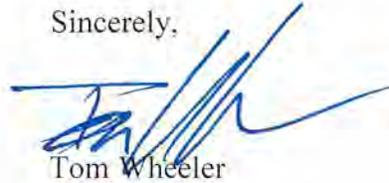
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
383 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

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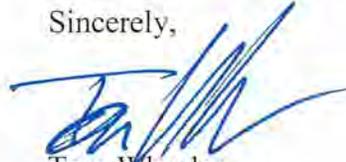
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Page 2—The Honorable Charles E. Grassley

well as other components of the Fund – and to working with stakeholders including rural carriers and consumers, 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,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

My colleagues and predecessors at the Commission worked hard to develop the landmark Universal Service Fund (USF) reforms adopted in 2011. The work to implement the reforms to date has included the steps you note to temporarily relieve the impacts of the QRA benchmarks on small rate-of-return carriers. At the first Open Meeting that I held as Chairman last week, the Wireline and Wireless Bureaus and the Office of Native Affairs and Policy provided the Commission with a status update on USF reform implementation. I was impressed with the work they have done to get broadband to millions of people for the first time, but I know much work remains.

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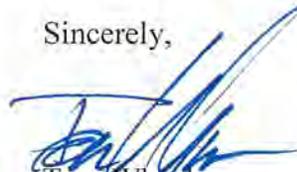
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Page 2—The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp

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

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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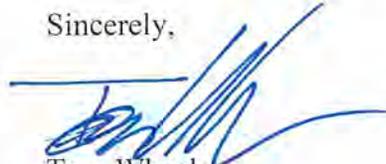
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Page 2—The Honorable James M. Inhofe

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable John Isakson
United States Senate
120 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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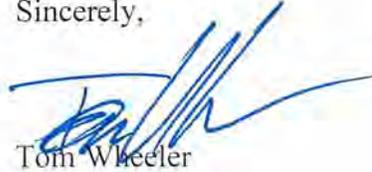
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Page 2—The Honorable John Isakson

well as other components of the Fund – and to working with stakeholders including rural carriers and consumers, 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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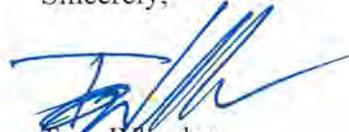
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Page 2—The Honorable Tim Johnson

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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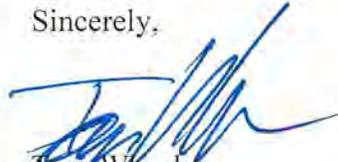
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Page 2—The Honorable Jeff Merkley

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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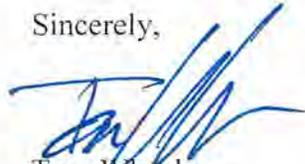
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Page 2—The Honorable Jerry Moran

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

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

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

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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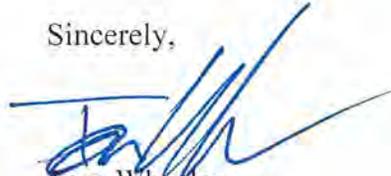
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Page 2—The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

well as other components of the Fund – and to working with stakeholders including rural carriers and consumers, 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,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Mark Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Pryor:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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Page 2—The Honorable Mark Pryor

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

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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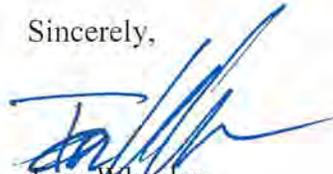
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Page 2—The Honorable James E. Risch

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

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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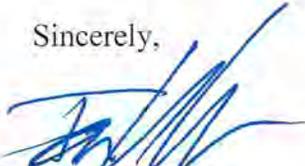
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Page 2—The Honorable Pat Roberts

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

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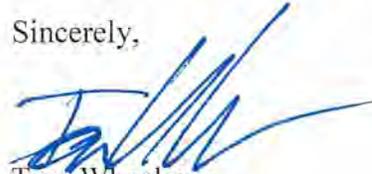
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Page 2—The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the effect of the Commission's Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) on rural carriers. We appreciate your views and will ensure that your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As I have made clear since the day I arrived at the Commission, one of the core elements of communications policy that must guide the work of the FCC is the critical need for all Americans to have access to high-speed broadband networks. Access denied is opportunity denied. To that end, I am a firm believer in the importance of universal service, and I agree that the Commission must make timely decisions in order to provide regulatory certainty and create incentives to further efficient investment in broadband networks.

My colleagues and predecessors at the Commission worked hard to develop the landmark Universal Service Fund (USF) reforms adopted in 2011. The work to implement the reforms to date has included the steps you note to temporarily relieve the impacts of the QRA benchmarks on small rate-of-return carriers. At the first Open Meeting that I held as Chairman last week, the Wireline and Wireless Bureaus and the Office of Native Affairs and Policy provided the Commission with a status update on USF reform implementation. I was impressed with the work they have done to get broadband to millions of people for the first time, but I know much work remains.

The Commission has unanimously adopted a vision for a broadband-focused Universal Service Fund. We must of course be open to modifications to the reforms if it is clear that particular rules are not serving their intended purpose. Commissioner Clyburn said it best, "We should remain open to pursuing course corrections where necessary." Where we are making progress we will continue moving full steam ahead. Where the reforms are not achieving their intended goals, we will make changes based on sound data.

Assuring that the opportunities of the new network extend to all Americans is one of the principal challenges we face at the FCC. We exist at an important moment when the USF is evolving to support 21st century services. I know I speak for all my colleagues in saying we look forward to continuing the work of reforming and modernizing the USF high-cost program – as

Page 2—The Honorable Jon Tester

well as other components of the Fund – and to working with stakeholders including rural carriers and consumers, 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", is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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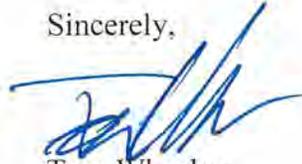
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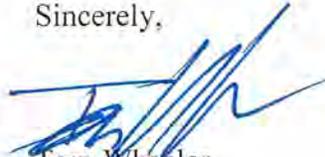
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Tom Wheeler