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Received & inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on General Farm
Commodities and Risk Management

Subcommittee on Livestock,
Rural Development, and Credit

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Intelligence,
Emerging Threats, and Capabilities

Subcommittee on Military Personnel

June 20, 2014

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Hon. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to express my support for the expression of interest that was filed by the Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc to provide rural broadband through the Connect America Fund.

As you may know, many of my constituents are at risk of being left on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. Without robust broadband, small towns are losing business, healthcare facilities are having their abilities restricted, and rural school children are often unable to complete homework at home without access to high-speed broadband.

The sparse density of households in rural Otsego County, New York make expanding broadband in this area more difficult from both a business case standpoint and a service standpoint, the Otsego Electric Cooperative is prepared to take on those challenges.

The proposal extends fiber optics to 4,700 rural homes in central New York served by Otsego Electric Cooperative, and also allows for the use of fiber optics at all of the substations which would, in turn, create a fiber optic loop around all of Otsego County. This loop becomes a fiber backbone which will be accessible to provides to utilize when providing last-mile services to residents. This structure is critical to expanding access in rural New York.

I ask that you give this expression of interest full and fair consideration and that you please keep me apprised of its progress. You may direct all correspondence to my District office at PO Box 775, Kinderhook, NY 12106 or by fax to 518-610-8135. If you have any questions, please call my office at 518-610-8133.

Sincerely,

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

CPG/rh