

CORY GARDNER  
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

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**Congress of the United States**  
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October 2, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Broadband access is vital to the success of our rural communities. In today's world, rural parts of the United States would be left behind if they did not have the broadband access they needed to communicate with friends and relatives, engage in business transactions, and further their education.

If done correctly, implementation of Phase II of the Connect America Fund (CAF II) is one way that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can bring faster connections to people and businesses across America. I commend the FCC for its work on the June 10 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), which will increase network speeds without exceeding the CAF II annual budget. Through this FNPRM, the FCC has promised download speeds of 10 Mbps – over double what many communities are operating with right now.

While I am excited about the prospect of 10 Mbps in these areas of Colorado's Fourth Congressional district and beyond, I am concerned that the FCC has not provided enough time to make the change. I ask that you provide flexibility in the build-out parameters of CAF II implementation, and extend the terms of support to ten years to allow time for construction of the higher-capacity network.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress