



STEVEN HORSFORD
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
4TH DISTRICT, NEVADA

September 18, 2014

1006

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of my constituents in Nevada's 4th Congressional District, I applaud your efforts and those of the other commissioners in Phase II of the Connect America Fund (CAF II) proceeding to further accelerate the deployment of broadband facilities to consumers who lack access to robust broadband.

Broadband Internet access has become an essential part of the economic and social fabric across America. It has been a tool to build businesses, apply for jobs, enhance educational opportunities and connect to friends and relatives. With robust broadband service, Individuals with talent and determination can compete globally. Without it, that individual is left behind in today's technology-centric economy.

Phase II of Connect America Fund offers an opportunity to bring speedier fiber-fed broadband connections to millions of Americans, including many of my constituents in Nevada's 4th congressional district, who wouldn't otherwise receive these benefits. Thanks to the Commission's efforts thousands of communities are now counting on the Connect America Fund. The Commission's June 10th, 2014 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) identifies a number of ideas of deploying broadband across the country without exceeding the CAF II annual budget.

One such idea is to double the download speeds offered in the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order from 4Mbps to 10Mbps. While we think that this is a good idea, we are concerned that if the Commission more than doubles the speed requirements without allowing the appropriate level of flexibility in other

elements of CAF II, the program's mission could be endangered. To address this concern, the Commission may want to consider expanding the build-out to 10 years to allow adequate time for the construction of the higher-capacity network. The same 10 Mbps standard should apply when identifying broadband availability from all competitors, or else communities with just 4 Mbps will be left behind. In addition, the Commission should closely examine its network build-out parameters so that they are consistent with the goal of providing quality broadband service to as many people as possible within CAF's limited funding framework.

The Commission has worked hard to help America overcome the digital divide, but I still have constituents seeking assistance to bring broadband service to their homes. The concerns they raise are a reminder of the challenge of building a robust and ubiquitous broadband network. Thank you for considering our concerns, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Horsford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STEVEN A. HORSFORD