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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3505**

September 18, 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:

Phase II of the Connect America Fund ("CAF II") offers an opportunity to bring speedier, fiber-fed broadband connections to millions of Americans in rural areas served by the larger "price cap" carriers. Indeed, the FCC's June 10 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) has raised hopes by more than doubling the promised download speeds in the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order, from 4 Mbps to 10 Mbps. And because CAF II represents the final phase of Universal Service reform, its rule will effectively determine, for years to come, how broadband support is distributed in these areas.

We are writing today to emphasize how important it is to ensure that the final details of CAF II live up to its promise. 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 overall mission could be endangered.

To the Commission's credit, its FNPRM identifies a number of constructive ideas that could help achieve the speedier network goals without exceeding the CAF II annual budget. These include extending the term of support up to ten years and providing flexibility on the build-out parameters. We hope you will take these ideas to heart.

Thank you for considering our concerns, and we look forward to working with you.

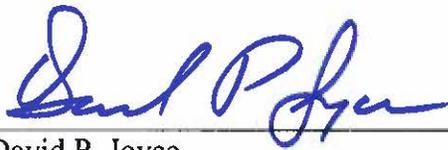
Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



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Bob B. Gibbs  
Member of Congress



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Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress



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Jim B. Renacci  
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