

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2014

1209

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

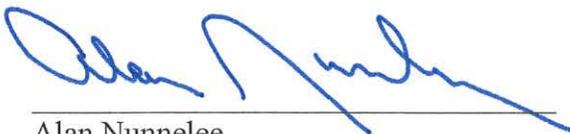
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As Members of Congress who represent Mississippi, we urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the final rules for Phase II of the Mobility Fund provide sufficient support for building and maintaining advanced wireless services in rural areas. In establishing the Universal Service Fund, Congress directed the FCC to support comparable services in rural areas as those provided in urban areas. As you recently noted, the 21st century is a wireless century. We urge you to adopt MF II rules that adequately support wireless so that rural states like Mississippi are not left behind.

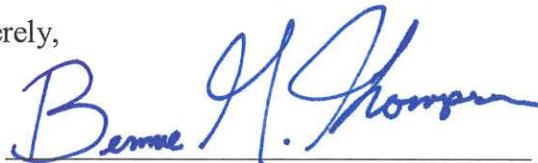
We represent one of the highest wireless-only populations, with approximately 50% of Mississippians living in wireless-only households. As consumer demand for wireless services continues to grow, adequate resources for mobile broadband through MF II will keep our constituents connected. Full support for deploying and maintaining mobile broadband networks will also support economic growth, as rural states stand to benefit from innovations in precision farming and agriculture techniques. New technologies enabled by mobile broadband reduce costs, increase yields, and improve quality of life, and potential advances are limited only by the strength of the mobile broadband signal.

The benefits of appropriately funding wireless services through MF II also extend to public safety, education, and telemedicine. For example, the Diabetes Telehealth Network, a public-private partnership launched earlier this year, has the potential to be what Governor Phil Bryant has called “a new lifeline for health and disease management.” Broadband connectivity, supported through the FCC’s previous reforms to the USF program, is fundamental to expanding such programs, and MF II provides the opportunity to bring and maintain mobile broadband throughout rural America. We applaud your focus on modernizing the Universal Service Fund, and support efforts to expand and maintain mobile broadband connectivity.

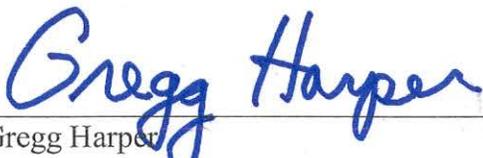
Sincerely,



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress