

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1632 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2721
FAX: (202) 225-2193



JOHN K. DELANEY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
6TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

DISTRICT OFFICES:

GAITHERSBURG
9801 WASHINGTONIAN BOULEVARD
SUITE 330
GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND 20878
PHONE: (301) 926-0300
FAX: (301) 926-0324

HAGERSTOWN
38 SOUTH POTOMAC STREET
SUITE 205
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21740
PHONE: (301) 733-2900
FAX: (301) 926-0324

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.DELANEY.HOUSE.GOV](http://www.delaney.house.gov)

October 15th, 2014

1257

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Access to broadband technology is fundamental to our competitiveness as a nation. As a member of Congress whose district has many rural areas, I understand the importance of government programs that incentivize the extension of broadband service to all regions of the country. The Universal Service Fund (USF) and the Connect America Fund (CAF) are critical programs that extend broadband access to all Americans, and I commend the Commission's extensive approach to encourage full participation in broadband technology.

It has come to my attention, however, that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed technology requirements for industry participation in the Connect America Fund Phase II. These technology restrictions include 100 millisecond latency qualifications that are impossible for some broadband technologies to achieve. Satellite companies are inherently disqualified from competing for CAF opportunities because they cannot achieve the 100 millisecond technology requirements. Satellite broadband technology is restricted by geospatial limitations that terrestrial broadband technologies do not encounter.

I am concerned that the proposed technology requirements have the potential to limit competition in a field where competition should be paramount. By allowing customers to experience all broadband technologies, they will have the ability to receive the service that best suits their needs and receive service that is representative of all available technology in the marketplace. I respectfully request the FCC to clarify the latency requirements that exempt certain broadband technologies from participating in the Connect America Fund program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'J' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress