



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Brad Ashford
U.S. House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ashford:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

The Lifeline Modernization Order we recently adopted takes the next major step in fostering the Commission's commitment to universal service. The Order modernizes the program to support broadband and refocuses it to meet the 21st century's communications challenges. At the same time, the *Order* puts in place a number of key programmatic reforms designed to protect the integrity of the Lifeline program and build on the Commission's recent efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program. By dramatically improving Lifeline's management and design, and putting the program on sound fiscal footing moving forward, we will help low-income Americans all across our nation connect to the internet and the opportunities of the broadband revolution.

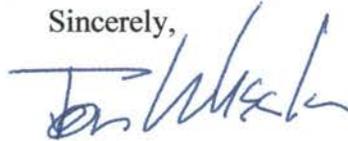
One of the key components of this modernization was an increased emphasis on competition within the Lifeline marketplace. To increase participation by broadband providers and thereby increase availability and consumer choice for this interstate service, the Order enables streamlined, nationwide entry to the Lifeline program for broadband providers.

At the same time, the Order notes that states will continue to play an important role in the Lifeline program. States maintain their authority to designate Lifeline voice and high-cost ETCs within the state. The Order also specifically notes that it does not preclude state commissions from policing the providers operating in their states, including Lifeline providers, to the extent state law has granted them such authority. This partnership between the FCC and states will ensure that Lifeline subscribers receive a choice of services that meet their modern needs while allowing the states and the FCC to work together to protect the integrity of the program.

The Order also establishes a National Eligibility Verifier as neutral third-party entity that will take the Lifeline eligibility determination out of the hands of providers once and for all. The Commission recognizes that existing state efforts will provide a way to more efficiently and cost-effectively determine eligibility. We seek to cooperate with such state efforts as we jointly continue to protect the integrity of the program and the subscriber experience. The Order specifically directs the Universal Service Administrative Company, the Administrator of the Universal Service Fund, to consider opportunities to coordinate and partner with states as part of its development and operation of the National Eligibility Verifier. Such partnerships will serve to promote the objectives of the National Eligibility Verifier to improve administrative efficiency, better the subscriber experience, and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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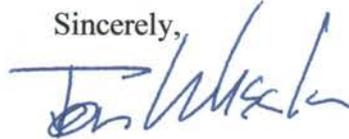
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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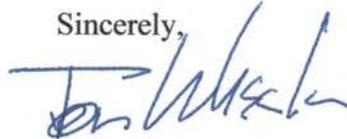
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Tom Wheeler



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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cramer:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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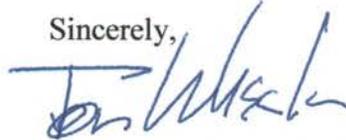
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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

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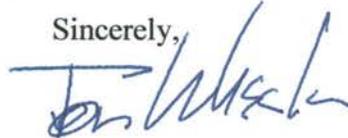
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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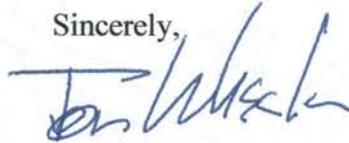
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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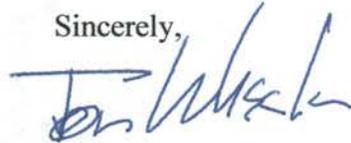
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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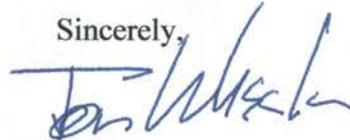
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
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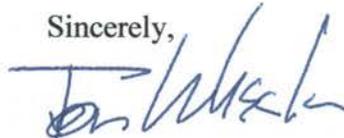
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The Order also establishes a National Eligibility Verifier as neutral third-party entity that will take the Lifeline eligibility determination out of the hands of providers once and for all. The Commission recognizes that existing state efforts will provide a way to more efficiently and cost-effectively determine eligibility. We seek to cooperate with such state efforts as we jointly continue to protect the integrity of the program and the subscriber experience. The Order specifically directs the Universal Service Administrative Company, the Administrator of the Universal Service Fund, to consider opportunities to coordinate and partner with states as part of its development and operation of the National Eligibility Verifier. Such partnerships will serve to promote the objectives of the National Eligibility Verifier to improve administrative efficiency, better the subscriber experience, and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lummis:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

The Lifeline Modernization Order we recently adopted takes the next major step in fostering the Commission's commitment to universal service. The Order modernizes the program to support broadband and refocuses it to meet the 21st century's communications challenges. At the same time, the *Order* puts in place a number of key programmatic reforms designed to protect the integrity of the Lifeline program and build on the Commission's recent efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program. By dramatically improving Lifeline's management and design, and putting the program on sound fiscal footing moving forward, we will help low-income Americans all across our nation connect to the internet and the opportunities of the broadband revolution.

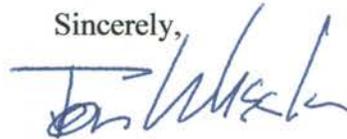
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Miller:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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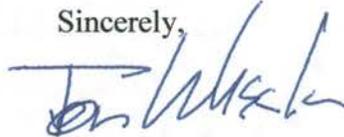
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
U.S. House of Representatives
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mullin:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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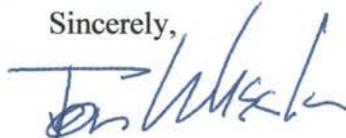
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Kristi Noem
U.S. House of Representatives
2422 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Noem:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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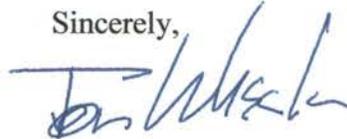
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Perdue:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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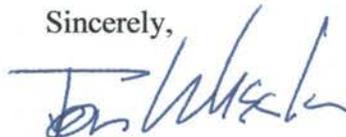
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Reid Ribble
U.S. House of Representatives
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ribble:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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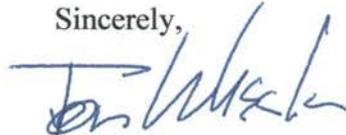
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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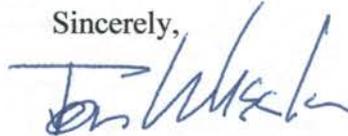
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Steve Russell
U.S. House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Russell:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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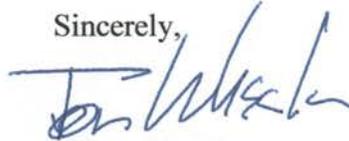
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Ben Sasse
United States Senate
386A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sasse:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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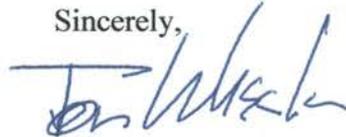
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Austin Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

The Lifeline Modernization Order we recently adopted takes the next major step in fostering the Commission's commitment to universal service. The Order modernizes the program to support broadband and refocuses it to meet the 21st century's communications challenges. At the same time, the *Order* puts in place a number of key programmatic reforms designed to protect the integrity of the Lifeline program and build on the Commission's recent efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program. By dramatically improving Lifeline's management and design, and putting the program on sound fiscal footing moving forward, we will help low-income Americans all across our nation connect to the internet and the opportunities of the broadband revolution.

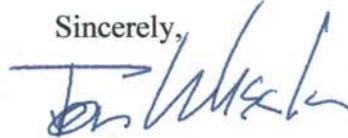
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At the same time, the Order notes that states will continue to play an important role in the Lifeline program. States maintain their authority to designate Lifeline voice and high-cost ETCs within the state. The Order also specifically notes that it does not preclude state commissions from policing the providers operating in their states, including Lifeline providers, to the extent state law has granted them such authority. This partnership between the FCC and states will ensure that Lifeline subscribers receive a choice of services that meet their modern needs while allowing the states and the FCC to work together to protect the integrity of the program.

The Order also establishes a National Eligibility Verifier as neutral third-party entity that will take the Lifeline eligibility determination out of the hands of providers once and for all. The Commission recognizes that existing state efforts will provide a way to more efficiently and cost-effectively determine eligibility. We seek to cooperate with such state efforts as we jointly continue to protect the integrity of the program and the subscriber experience. The Order specifically directs the Universal Service Administrative Company, the Administrator of the Universal Service Fund, to consider opportunities to coordinate and partner with states as part of its development and operation of the National Eligibility Verifier. Such partnerships will serve to promote the objectives of the National Eligibility Verifier to improve administrative efficiency, better the subscriber experience, and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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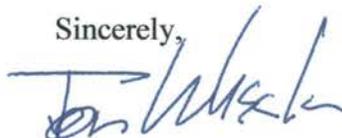
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House of Representatives
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

Broadband has evolved to become a necessity. Broadband is essential to connect individuals to employment opportunities, to complete an education, and to access important services online. At a time when our economy and lives are increasingly moving online, Lifeline must do the same. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

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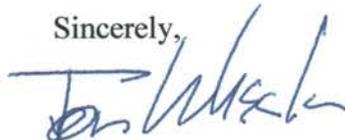
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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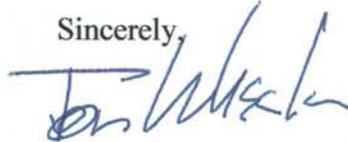
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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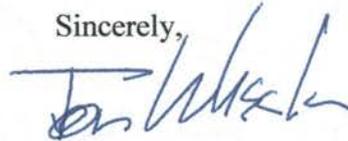
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
U.S. House of Representatives
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Zinke:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Commission's recent decisions to create a streamlined federal Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation process and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier.

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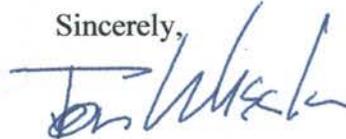
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