



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Chris Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Collins:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

In May, the Commission adopted an Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) addressing the framework for the CAF Phase II competitive bidding process. Through the CAF Phase II bidding process, the Commission will allocate more than \$2 billion over the next decade to expand broadband in targeted rural areas. One of the primary policy goals for this competitive bidding process is to ensure widespread participation from all providers that can deliver a high-quality service. Simply put, more competition between providers means that finite universal service funding will be used efficiently to deliver the best possible solutions.

Among the key issues we seek comment on in the FNPRM are the concerns you and others have raised regarding those states where significant amounts of Phase II funding were initially declined by incumbent, price cap carriers. In my view, a decision by a price cap carrier to decline CAF Phase II funding support in no way diminishes our universal service obligations to provide support to connect the unserved communities in those states.

Accordingly, the FNPRM seeks comment on a number of measures to achieve the public interest objective of ensuring appropriate support for all states. The Order recognizes and applauds state initiatives to advance broadband deployment and access to unserved and underserved consumers, such as New York's. We seek further comment on how best to coordinate with such initiatives to achieve our universal service goals. Finally, we seek further comment a number of ways that the Commission can structure the CAF Phase II auction to

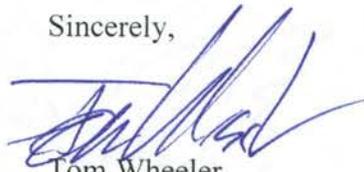
Page 2—The Honorable Chris Collins

ensure an equitable distribution of funds to states like New York, where the price cap carrier declined to accept significant amounts of universal service support.

As the Commission moves forward with finalizing the structure of the CAF Phase II reverse auction, please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders, including those voiced by you and your constituents, and give full attention to the best ways to ensure that rural communities have access to robust and reliable broadband service.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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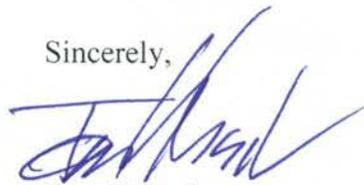
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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Joseph Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
1436 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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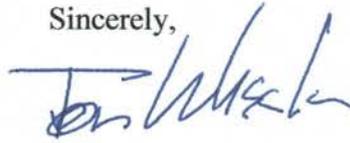
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Tom Wheeler



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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

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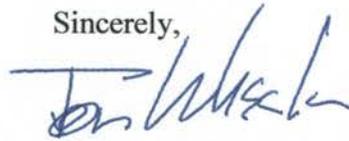
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Chris Gibson
U.S. House of Representatives
1708 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gibson:

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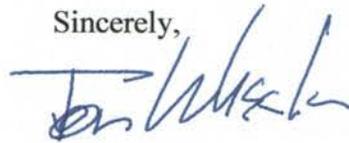
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Richard Hanna
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hanna:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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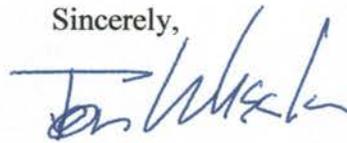
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Tom Wheeler





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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

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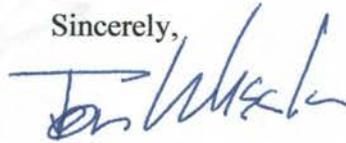
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Steve Israel
U.S. House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Israel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

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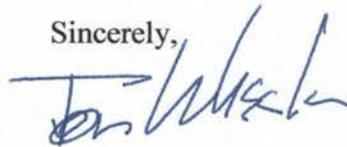
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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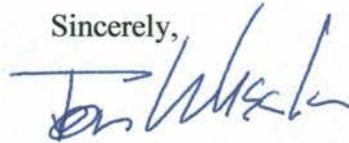
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Tom Wheeler



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THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

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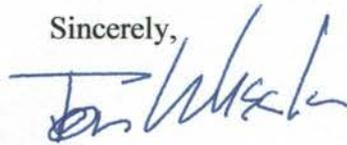
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

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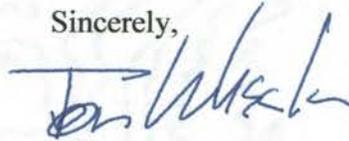
Page 2—The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks

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As the Commission moves forward with finalizing the structure of the CAF Phase II reverse auction, please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders, including those voiced by you and your constituents, and give full attention to the best ways to ensure that rural communities have access to robust and reliable broadband service.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. 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 Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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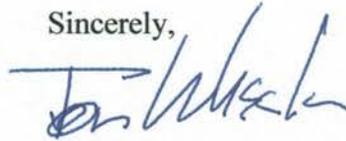
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Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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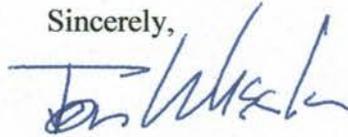
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Page 2—The Honorable Charles B. Rangel

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Tom Reed
U.S. House of Representatives
2437 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reed:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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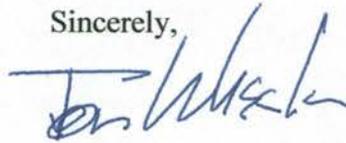
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Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Kathleen Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Rice:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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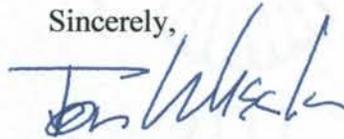
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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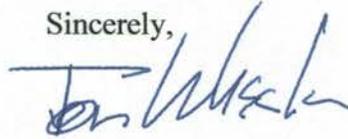
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
U.S. House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stefanik:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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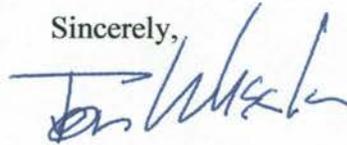
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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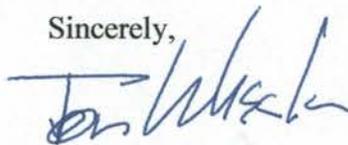
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Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

I share your interest in bridging the rural digital divide in our country. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. The Commission is focused on updating the universal service high-cost program to ensure that we are delivering the best possible voice and broadband experiences to rural areas while providing a climate for increased broadband expansion, all within the confines of the CAF budget.

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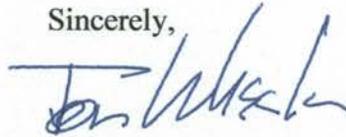
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Tom Wheeler



2018



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt rules for the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process that ensures an equitable allocation of funding for states such as New York.

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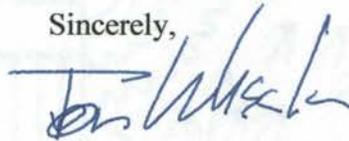
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