

December 12, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

As representatives of smaller broadband companies serving rural and small-town America, and as fierce defenders of open internet protections for each and every one of our customers, we urge you to support Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai's proposal to free broadband services from the out-of-date 1930s-era regulation imposed on these essential services two years ago.

This proposal assures that broadband services will be treated equally and fairly under consistent protections. It also will help advance our number one priority, which is to expand broadband infrastructure and investment and provide cutting edge 21st century communications services to every American.

Our companies have deep roots in the communities in which we live and serve. This is one of the reasons that broadband providers continue working hard to expand access and infrastructure, investing more than \$70 billion in U.S. networks annually. As a result, over the past 10 years broadband connectivity in rural homes has risen 117 percent.

The data on investment trends, however, suggest that regulatory structures matter. Since the Commission reclassified broadband as a public utility in 2015, investment has been heading in the wrong direction. In 2016, capital expenditures from broadband providers was \$76 billion, \$2.4 billion less than in 2014, the year before the FCC adopted its current misguided rules.

Chairman Pai's leadership is paving the way for more consistent protections for consumers across the internet and a level playing field for all companies online. It is precisely this kind of constructive policy environment that can spark increased investment in broadband infrastructure deployment throughout our nation—investment that will help close the “digital divide.”

For improved services, education, healthcare and economic opportunity, it is clear that rural Americans rely heavily on broadband to build opportunity. Your strong, public support for the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom order will help us achieve our shared objective of a truly connected nation.

Sincerely,

Leonard Steinberg
Alaska Communications
Anchorage, Alaska

George Allen
Bee Line Cable
Millinocket, Maine

Jason Williams
Blackfoot Telecommunications Group
Missoula, Montana

Scott Shilling
Bay Country Communications
Cambridge, Maryland

Russell Moore
Big Bend Telephone Company
Alpine, Texas

James Hunter
BlueBridge Media
South Pittsburg, Tennessee

Patricia Jo Boyers
Boycom Cablevision
Poplar Bluff, Missouri

William Bottiggi
Braintree Electric Light Department
Braintree, Massachusetts

Bennett Hooks
Buford Communications
Tyler, Texas

Christopher A. Dyrek
Cable America Missouri
Mesa, Arizona

Herb Longware
Cable Communications of Willsboro, Inc.
Willsboro, New York

Ralph L Potts
Cable Co-op, Inc
Oberlin, Ohio

Thomas E Gelardi
Calneva Broadband, LLC
Westwood, California

Chad Winters
Cass Cable TV, Inc.
Virginia, Illinois

George Lee
Central Telecom Services LLC
Fairview, Utah

Arthur Cooper
Community Antenna Service, Inc. (DBA CAS
Cable)
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Wayne Antcliff
Concept Communication Corporation/MiFiber
Newport, Washington

Brett Carroll
Conway Corporation
Conway, Arkansas

Nick Ramroop
DECCA Cable
Ocala, Florida

Gary Shorman
Eagle Communications, Inc.
Hays, Kansas

Trenton D. Boaldin
EPICTOUCH
Elkhart, Kansas

Mark Anderson
Farmers Independent Telephone Company
Grantsburg, Wisconsin

Tina Pidgeon
GCI
Anchorage, Alaska

Jared Johnson
Goldfield Access Network
Goldfield, Iowa

Robert Hunt
GVTC
New Braunfels, Texas

Terri Jeffers
Hickory Telephone Company
Hickory, Pennsylvania

Chris J. Philips
Kalida Telephone Co.
Kalida, Ohio

Don Trednick
Kingsland Cable TV / Internet
Kingsland, Georgia

Michelle Baudino
Kinsman Mutual Telephone Co.
Kinsman, Illinois

Tyler Kilde
MLGC, LLC
Enderlin, North Dakota

Chad Lawson
Murray Electric System
Murray, Kentucky

Arne L. Haynes
Rainier Connect
Eatonville, WA

John Strode
Ritter Communications
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Brian Lynch
Schurz Communications, Inc.
Mishawaka, Indiana

Christopher E. French
Shenandoah Telecommunications Company
Edinburg, Virginia

Richard J. Sjoberg
Sjoberg's Inc.
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Walter E. Hooper III
Spring City Cable TV, Inc.
Spring City, Tennessee

Frederick Rothammer
Stowe Cable Systems, Stowe Communications
Stowe, Vermont

William Pearson
Thames Valley Communications
Groton, Connecticut

Jimmy Copeland
Troy Cablevision, Inc
Troy, Alabama

David L. Magill
Local Internet Service Company dba LISCO
Fairfield, Iowa

Craig S. Mitchell
Morris Broadband
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Dan Overland
Pottawatomie Telephone Company
Earlsboro, Oklahoma

John J. Gdovin
RCN/Grande/Patriot Media
Princeton, New Jersey

C Lee Chambers
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative
Jefferson, South Carolina

Tom Barth
Scio Cablevision Inc
Scio, Oregon

Michael Steil
Signal, Inc.
West Bend, Iowa

Darby A. McCarty
Smithville Communications, Inc.
Ellettsville, Indiana

Gary Gilmer
Southwest Texas Communications
Rocksprings, Texas

Robert W. Goodenow
Sunrise Communications, LLC
Onaway, Michigan

Robert Jacobson
Tongue River Communications Inc
Ranchester, Wyoming

Randy Fletcher
TVC, Inc.
Annville, Pennsylvania

Rick Tidwell
Valu-Net LLC
Emporia, Kansas

Donald Hammer
Verneau Networks, Inc.
Hillsboro, Wisconsin

Duke Milunovich
Volcano Internet Provider
Pine Grove, California

Galen Manners
Wave Wireless LLC
Parsons, Kansas

Jack W. Keen-CEO
WNM Communications
Silver City, New Mexico

Steve Timcoe
Wyandotte Municipal Services-City of
Wyandotte, Wyandotte Cable
Wyandotte, Michigan

James M Gleason
Vast Broadband
Sikeston, Missouri

Dan Vaala
Viking Cable
Story, Wyoming

Patrick Knorr
Wave Broadband
Kirkland, Washington

William D. Bauer
Windbreak Cable
Gering, Nebraska

Kathryn E. Ford
WOW! Internet, Cable & Phone
Englewood, Colorado