

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 19, 2021

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write today regarding the recent announcement that Phase 1 of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction is complete, with more than \$9.2 billion slated to be awarded to reach more than 5.2 million unserved locations across rural America. We all hope this program will be a great success—and it is in that spirit that we write to encourage you to take every reasonable measure possible to ensure this turns out to be the case.

For far too long, too many Americans have lacked access to the affordable, high-speed broadband services they need to participate in today's online world. We appreciate the steps the FCC has taken to provide connectivity to more homes and businesses. The initial estimates of the locations that RDOF Phase 1 could connect are encouraging, and we are eager to see this program succeed so that more individuals and businesses receive the broadband services promised.

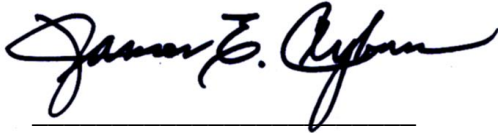
The hard work of carrying out this program will now begin in earnest. Transparency and accountability must be part and parcel of the administration of any program, and we urge you to thoroughly vet the winning bidders to ensure that they are capable of deploying and delivering the services they committed to providing. We therefore believe it is essential that the FCC apply the scrutiny needed to ensure the funding will be used wisely and effectively, consistent with the goals of the Universal Service Fund (USF) High Cost Program. Without proper due diligence today, we fear that we will not know whether funds were improperly spent for years to come.

As responsible stewards of USF funds, we ask that the FCC redouble its efforts to review the long-form applications that will now be submitted. We urge the FCC to validate that each provider in fact has the technical, financial, managerial, operational skills, capabilities, and resources to deliver the services that they have pledged for every American they plan to serve regardless of the technology they use. We also strongly encourage the FCC to make as public as possible the status of its review and consider opportunities for public input on the applications. Such transparency and accountability will be essential to ensure the success of this program and to minimize any opportunities for fraud or abuse.

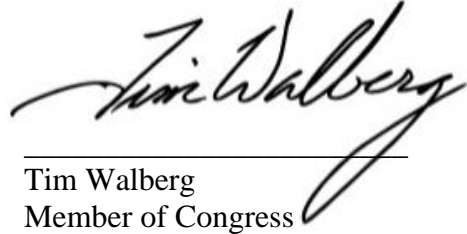
Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to develop and implement programs to close the digital divide.

cc: The Honorable Brendan Carr
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks
The Honorable Nathan Simington

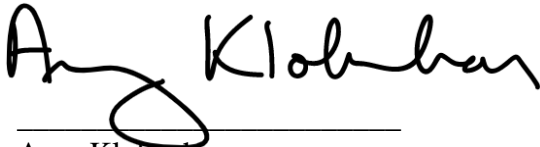
Sincerely,



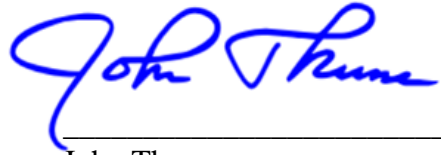
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
Member of Congress



John Thune
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Roger F. Wicker
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
James Risch
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Tina Smith
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Patrick Leahy
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
John Boozman
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Richard J. Durbin
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mike Crapo
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kirsten Gillibrand
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Brian Schatz
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
John Barrasso
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Michael Bennet
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom Cotton
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ron Wyden
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Joni K. Ernst
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jeff Merkley
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Steve Daines
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Debbie Stabenow
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Deb Fischer
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Roy Blunt
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Richard Burr
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
John Hoeven
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Angus S. King, Jr.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Todd Young
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Chuck Grassley
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mark Kelly
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mike Rounds
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
James Lankford
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Joe Manchin III
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ben Cline
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Andy Barr
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
David Trone
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Ron Kind
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Austin Scott
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Ed Case
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Bob Good
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
David Rouzer
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Rick Allen
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Greg Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
David McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Billy Long
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ted Budd
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom Rice
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jared Golden
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Barry Moore
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Greg Pence
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Andrew Clyde
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Fred Keller
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Alex Mooney
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jason Smith
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Michael Guest
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mike Bost
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
French Hill
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
James Comer
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ken Buck
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Hal Rogers
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Steve Womack
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Ron Estes
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Tom Reed
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
David Valadao
Member of Congress

___/S/_____
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress