

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

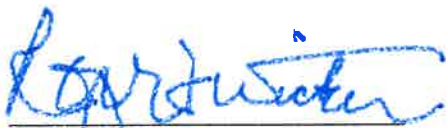
We write this letter to express our serious concerns that the map released by the Federal Communications Commission last week showing presumptive eligible areas for Mobility Fund Phase II (MF II) support may not be an accurate depiction of areas in need of universal service support. We understand that the map was developed based on a preliminary assessment from a one-time data collection effort that will be verified through a challenge process. However, we are concerned that the map misrepresents the existence of 4G LTE services in many areas. As a result, the Commission's proposed challenge process may not be robust enough to adequately address the shortcomings in the Commission's assessment of geographic areas in need of support for this proceeding.

MF II is intended to provide \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years to preserve and expand mobile coverage to rural areas. These resources will be made available to provide 4G LTE service where it is not economically viable today to deploy services through private sector means alone. Having consistently traveled throughout rural areas in our states, it appears that there are significant gaps in mobile coverage beyond what is represented by the map's initial presentation of "eligible areas". To accurately target support to communities truly in need of broadband service, it is critical we collect standardized and accurate data.

For too long, millions of rural Americans have been living without consistent and reliable mobile broadband service. Identifying rural areas as not eligible for support will exacerbate the digital divide, denying fundamental economic opportunities to these rural communities. We strongly urge the Commission to accurately and consistently identify areas that do not have unsubsidized 4G LTE service and provide Congress with an update on final eligible areas before auctioning \$4.53 billion of MF II support.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



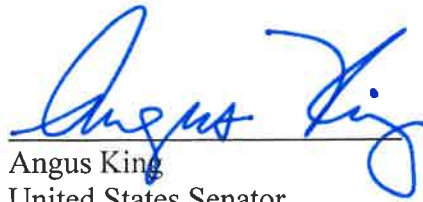
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



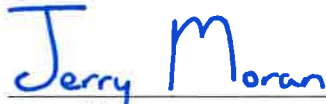
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator



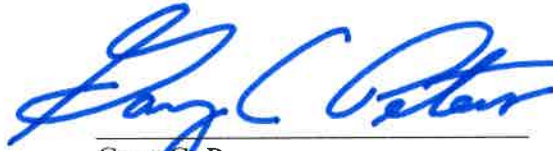
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator