May 15, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to express our strong support and sincere gratitude for the recent Order addressing budget shortfalls in the Universal Service Fund’s (USF) High-Cost program. The Order is an essential, immediate step in the right direction, and we now encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue down this path by acting quickly on the notice of proposed rulemaking to provide long-term, predictable support. Such additional steps are necessary to ensure rural Americans have access to high quality voice and broadband services.

The FCC’s recent Order approving an infusion of funds into the USF is greatly welcomed, and will provide needed support for small, rural carriers that rely on the High-Cost USF program. Despite this, persistent limitations on resources can affect the ability of smaller broadband providers to deliver services in our country’s most rural communities. The FCC’s cost model for smaller operators electing model-based USF support is not yet funded at the designed levels, and carriers not receiving model-based support will once again face significant funding cuts when the program’s new fiscal year takes effect on July 1, 2018. These recurring budget shortfalls result in lower speeds, more unserved locations, and higher prices for rural consumers and businesses.

Congress has expressed consistent, bipartisan support for addressing shortfalls in the USF program. In April 2017, 58 Senators called on the FCC to provide adequate resources for broadband delivery services to rural consumers in areas that are the hardest and costliest to serve. In May 2017, 102 Representatives wrote to the FCC, expressing similar concerns about the impacts of insufficient USF resources on rural consumers.

We commend the FCC’s actions thus far to address and modernize USF support. Taking action on the notice of proposed rulemaking and establishing lasting solutions that allow the reformed High-Cost mechanism to work as designed would enable many smaller operators to offer high quality, affordable broadband to consumers across rural America. It is important to consider any modifications needed to meet the program’s objectives of ensuring consistent network build-out and strengthening ongoing service, for locations otherwise unserved, in our nation’s high-cost rural areas.
Thank you for the actions you have undertaken thus far to support the USF and for considering this request. We share your goal of eliminating the digital divide and look forward to working with you to maintain accessible, affordable broadband for rural American consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

John Thune
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee

Bill Nelson
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce Committee

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator
Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Tim Scott
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
United States Senator
Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Tom Cotton
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Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
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Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

United States Senator
Tim Kaine
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United States Senator
Patty Murray
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Patty Murray
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United States Senator

United States Senator
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

United States Senator
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

United States Senator
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

United States Senator
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

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United States Senator

United States Senator
Rob Portman
United States Senator

Ben Sasse
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

John Kennedy
United States Senator

Richard Burr
United States Senator

Mark Warner
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

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

Dear Senator Sasse:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

[Signature]

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

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

Dear Senator Fischer:  

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

[Signature]
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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August 6, 2018

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable James Lankford  
United States Senate  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jim Risch  
United States Senate  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Joe Donnelly  
United States Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Donnelly:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Joe Manchin  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

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

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Cornyn:  

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.  

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Ajit V. Pai
Dear Senator Hoeven:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable John N. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
B11 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  20510  

Dear Senator Thune:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
United States Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

[Signature]
Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Cantwell:  

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.  

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.  

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

Sincerely,  

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

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

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Bennet:  

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.  

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.  

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Mike Rounds  
United States Senate  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rounds:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit Pai
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Richard M. Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

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

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

[Signature]
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

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

Dear Senator Daines:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over $500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

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

Dear Senator Tillis:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

[Signature]
August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Senator Smith:

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Young:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Tom Cotton  
United States Senate  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Cotton:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai