

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 5, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) request for comment in the recent Notice of Inquiry (NOI) "Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion" (GN Docket No. 17-199). We are gravely concerned that the policies contemplated by this NOI could undo significant progress and investment by the FCC and Congress to ensure that all Americans have access to reliable, high-speed broadband. Specifically, we strongly oppose any proposal to lower speeds from the current standard of 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload to 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps or to find mobile broadband as a universally appropriate replacement for fixed, home broadband.

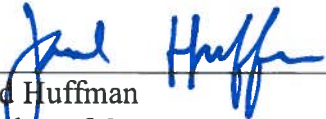
As you well know, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to economic development, public safety, and a vibrant quality of life. Ensuring every home, school, and business has adequate access to the Internet is essential to unlocking the innovative potential of all Americans. However, as the annual section 706 broadband report demonstrates, our nation's rural and tribal communities continue to lag behind urban America and much of the developed world when it comes to broadband access, speed, and reliability. As the FCC has noted, thirty-nine percent of rural America and forty-one percent of those on Tribal land lack access to advanced broadband. The FCC has a statutory obligation to take steps to deploy broadband that supports high-quality telecommunications capability to all Americans in a reasonable and timely manner. The policy changes contemplated by this NOI would run counter to the intent of Congress by attempting to fulfill that statutory obligation through definitional changes, rather than concrete action to connect more Americans online. Simply moving the goalposts is not a policy solution, and weakening the definition of high speed internet is a disservice to the rural and tribal communities the FCC has an obligation to serve.

In particular, we are concerned with any effort to weaken the FCC's current policy finding that every American should have access to broadband services with speeds of at least 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload. Finding instead that only mobile service of 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload is sufficient would result in significantly slower and less reliable Internet access for millions of Americans, particularly those with low incomes or those living in rural and tribal communities. At this time, mobile access at 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload is not a reasonable replacement for fixed advanced broadband at home. This fact is well known to any child seeking to complete a homework assignment, small business owner hoping to develop an Internet presence, or individual completing an online job application or communicating with their doctor.

We strongly urge you to maintain the highest connectivity standards, which are critical to the FCC's statutory obligation to support high-quality telecommunications capability to all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



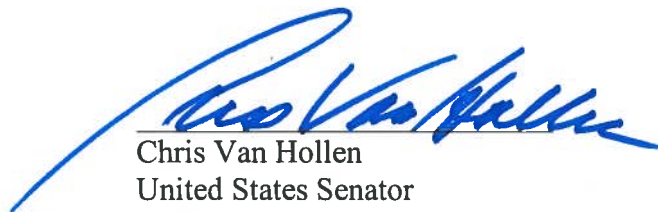
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



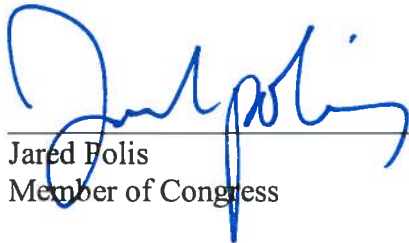
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



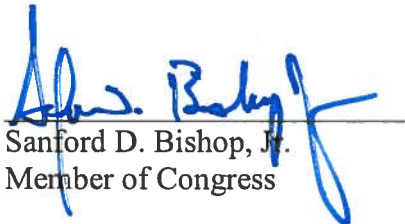
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



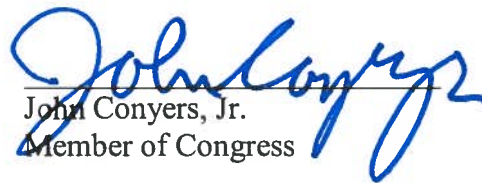
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



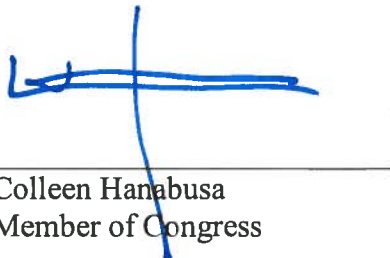
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



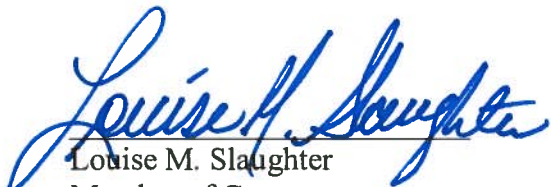
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

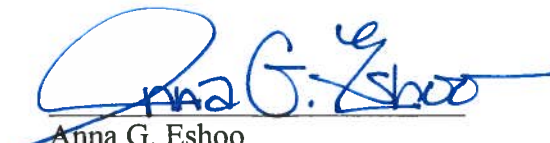



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress




Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

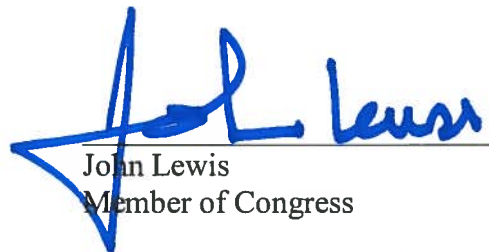
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

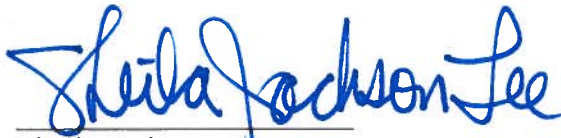
  
Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



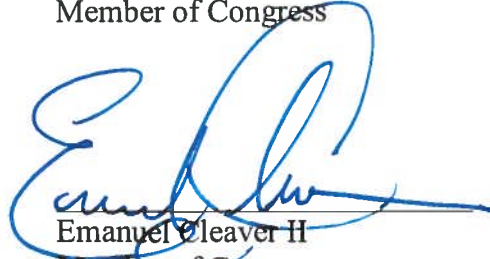
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



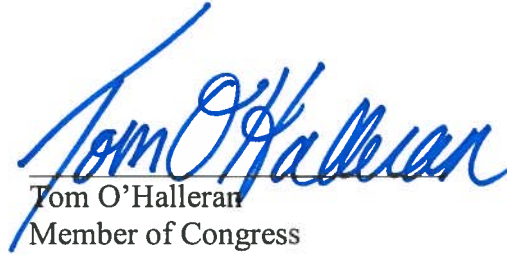
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress