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November 2, 2017

Kris Anne Monteith
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Monteith:

I write to request your help to increase the transparency of the awarded recipients' progress to date and plans for meeting their commitments under the Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF-II) program. While the monitoring reports and other resources available through the Connect America Fund Progress Portal provide some general information, my constituents and staff have not been able to obtain data or reports on progress and deployment details since over \$26 million was awarded through the program to connect homes and businesses in Colorado in August 2015. Many of my constituents and local elected officials in Colorado have expressed frustration about this lack of information about the CAF-II commitments.

Given that taxpayer funding is helping to pay for these deployments, we believe our constituents have a right to clear, detailed information about where those funds are going. A few common concerns my staff and I have heard include the lack of clarity about: where work has been completed on connecting homes or businesses as required by the program, which homes and businesses will be connected (or are likely to be connected) for the remainder of the program and when those connections will be made, as well as which homes and businesses will remain without high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband Internet after the funds are spent.

These concerns have been expressed through the following kinds of questions:

- Is my household or business included in one of the final eligible areas for support for broadband and voice service under CAF-II?
- If so, is my household or business in an area where Phase II support has been accepted and what is the obligation of the provider if that funding has been accepted?
- If my household or business is within one of the eligible and accepted areas but has not yet been connected, when can I expect deployment efforts to build out to me?
- For the households or businesses within the eligible and accepted CAF-II funding areas that have already been connected, have the minimum requirements been met for broadband services under CAF-II, including speed, latency, usage allowance, and pricing?

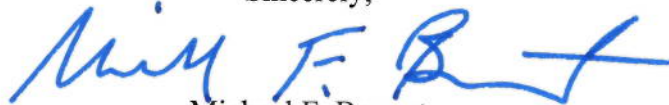
- What speeds can my household or business expect if I am connected or if my household or business is in an area that has been upgraded with CAF-II funds? Will the speeds meet the FCC 2015 broadband definition of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload?
- When an area is upgraded with CAF-II funds, do adjacent areas occasionally see a reduction in services?
- Which households and businesses should expect to be included in the list of eligible areas in the next round of CAF funding that is for Rate-of-Return Carriers?
- As Rate-of-Return Carriers prepare for next year's auction, how can they better understand ongoing plans to connect under the earlier round of funding and plan their submittals accordingly?

I am aware that CAF-II recipients, as a condition for funding, must file annual reports, build-out milestone certifications, and identify the locations where they offer qualifying service. To better assess progress and adherence to the terms of the CAF-II funding, I request your help in answering the above questions for my constituents. Specifically, by November 10, please make public copies of any annual reports or deployment evaluations to the FCC or the Colorado Public Utility Commission (PUC). My understanding is that both the FCC and PUC received such reports in July of this year. If any proprietary information is contained in these reports, I ask that you release a redacted version of the reports with the proprietary information omitted.

Further, I request copies of the FCC Form 477 submittals pertaining to Colorado, which are required under CAF-II and detail broadband deployment and subscription data.

High-speed, reliable, affordable broadband is essential for our communities to thrive in a 21st Century economy, and I believe we have to do everything we can to make that a reality – in particular in our rural communities. Based on my constituents' questions and concerns, and in an effort to make the CAF-II project as successful and transparent as possible in Colorado, I look forward to a prompt response as we work together to connect and lift up our communities through high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband access. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator