

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to urge you to ensure the 600 MHz spectrum that was made available by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) broadcast incentive auction is cleared no later than July 3, 2020, as currently scheduled.

The Internet has revolutionized the lives of millions of Americans, changed the way we communicate and engage in the 21st century economy, and expanded our nation's economy. Reliable broadband internet provides significant employment, educational, health, and economic opportunities to those who have access. However, too many Americans remain unserved or underserved. One out of every ten Americans lacks broadband internet access with most of these 35 million individuals residing in rural communities. Deploying a robust broadband infrastructure across the country is not just a matter of creating jobs and stimulating economic growth here at home. Ultimately, it's a matter of economic necessity in today's globally-connected world.

Clearing the 600 MHz band as quickly as possible is a critical component of the ongoing effort to deploy high-speed internet to rural America and close the digital divide. We are concerned that delays to the 39-month repacking timeline established by the FCC will impede the billions of dollars of private sector investments in infrastructure necessary for achieving this goal. Deployment of the infrastructure and technology as a result of the auction will support millions of jobs and generate billions in economic development, much of which will benefit rural America. Additionally, rapid deployment of this spectrum is critical for the U.S. to continue its leadership in technology investment and innovation by providing an on-ramp for 5G network deployments.

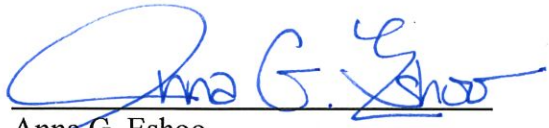
We commend you for your work to increase the deployment of broadband to underserved communities in rural America and encourage you to build on these efforts by clearing the 600 MHz spectrum no later than July 3, 2020. Additionally, we support the FCC's robust waiver process, and believe that it provides the Commission with reasonable, effective, and sufficient procedures to provide flexibility for stations as they move channels. We also encourage all stakeholders to work together to find creative solutions for faster clearing where possible. Every day that the 600 MHz spectrum is not put to use represents a lost opportunity for citizens in rural America to utilize the technology and services necessary in today's economy. By encouraging a rapid, reasonable, and cost-effective transition of the 600 MHz spectrum, the FCC can help ensure that citizens in rural America enjoy the benefits that reliable, high-speed internet connectivity promise.

Thank you for your attention to our request and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



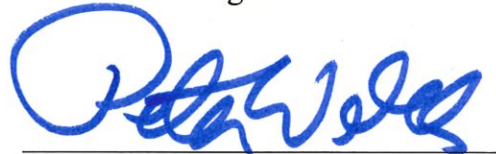
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



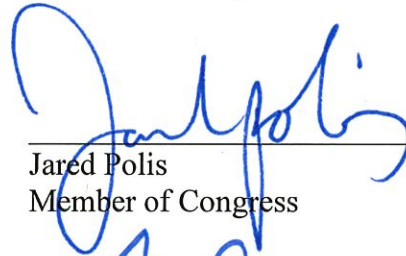
Steve Scalise
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Peter Welch
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Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



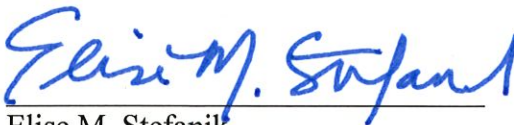
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



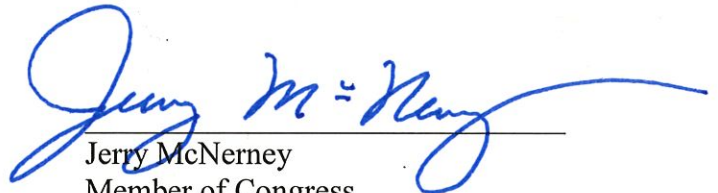
Jaime Herrera Beutler
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Adam Smith
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Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



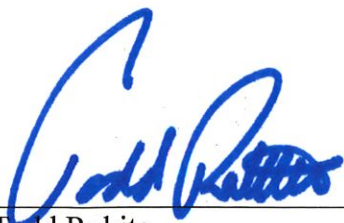
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



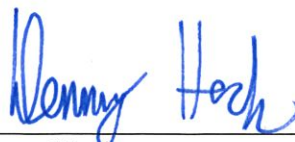
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



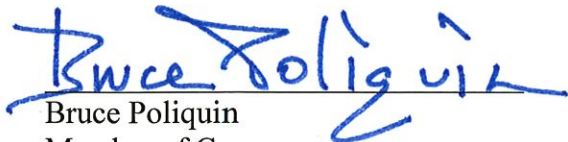
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



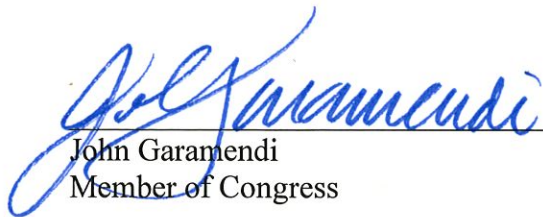
Todd Rokita
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Denny Heck
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John Garamendi
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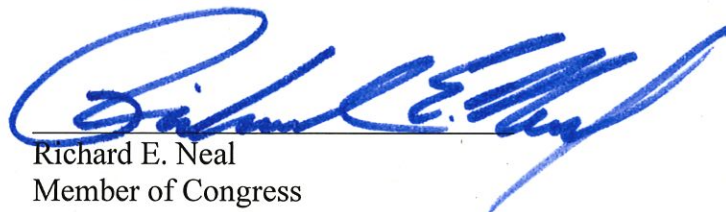
David Kustoff
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Jared Huffman
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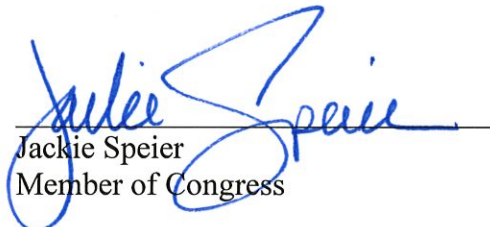
Austin Scott
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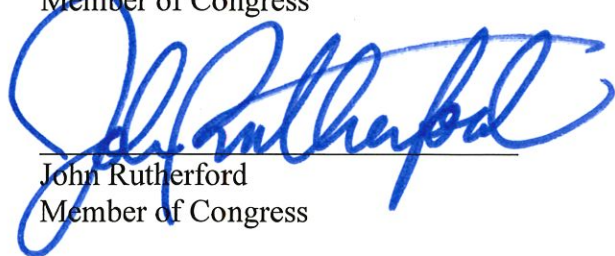
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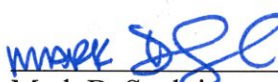
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
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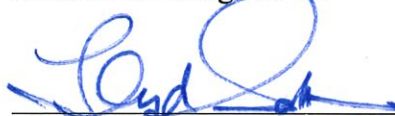
Mark DeSaulnier
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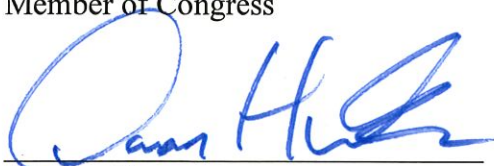
Adriano Espaillat
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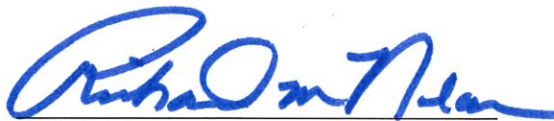
Lloyd Smucker
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Terri A. Sewell
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Duncan Hunter
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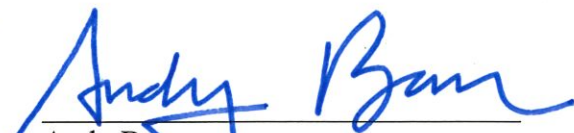
Rick Nolan
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Rick Crawford
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Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

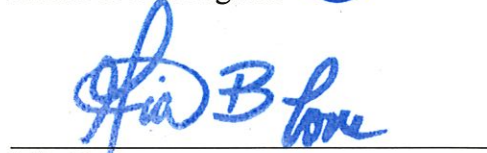

Andy Barr
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

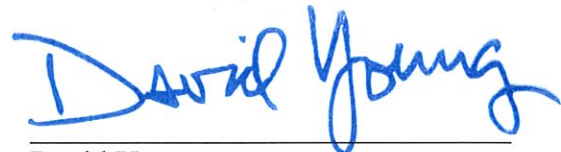

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