

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

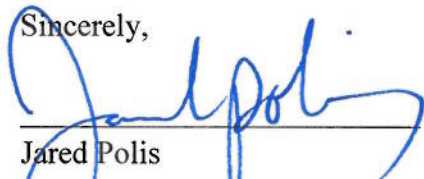
On January 8th, 2018, you signed an executive memorandum instructing the Secretary of the Interior “to use all viable tools to accelerate the deployment and adoption of affordable, reliable, modern high-speed broadband connectivity in rural America.” While we welcome efforts to expand access to the millions of Americans who have been left behind in this digital economy, **we urge your Administration to take more meaningful steps at addressing the connectivity gap by increasing funding for rural broadband programs.** Regulatory changes alone will do little to address the extreme connectivity gap that currently exists in rural America, and must be done without compromising environmental standards on our precious federal lands.

According to some estimates, over \$80 billion will be required to reach areas in the United States without service. Your Administration should lead on this effort by requesting full financial backing of rural broadband. Additionally, at the end of last year, Grace Koh, Special Assistant to the National Economic Council indicated that the Administration has no intention of increasing broadband funding as a part of the proposed infrastructure package. We strongly believe that robust funding for increasing broadband deployment is essential to any infrastructure package proposal, and necessary in any farm bill reauthorization proposals.

Regardless of political party or zip code, all Americans deserve equal access to the great potential of the internet. Investments in expanding connectivity will pay dividends in economic growth, in addition to linking people to communication, education, medicine, entertainment and much more.

We welcome opportunities to work with your Administration in our joint efforts to bring internet connectivity that can span the digital divide. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress