

January 12, 2018

Chairman Ajit V. Pai

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, WC Docket Nos. 17-287, 11-42, 09-197

Dear Chairman Pai:

Partners Bridging the Digital Divide is an information-sharing agency for digital inclusion. Our mission is to support and encourage agencies working to bridge the digital divide. We work with our twenty five partner agencies in fifteen states to help them and their clients to participate in the digital world. Our partners provide the equipment and training necessary for their clients to gain access to education, employment, public services, and community. They all rely on low-cost internet connection options to help their clients have daily access to the resources they need, and the Lifeline Broadband service was going to be a powerful tool to help provide this access to low income people in all our communities.

We oppose many aspects of the proposal, including the elimination of the Lifeline Broadband Provider designation created by the 2016 Lifeline Order (paragraph 58) and the elimination of non-facilities based ETCs (paragraphs 62 and 64). These actions, if implemented, will add to the obstacles facing those attempting to overcome the digital divide.

In many of the communities served, there are few options for low-cost service. Keeping the Lifeline Broadband Provider designation and allowing for non-facilities based ETCs will allow for increased competition, which I understand to be one of your key goals at the FCC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry Glicklich

President

Partners Bridging the Digital Divide, Inc.

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