

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Arielle Roth
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Chairman Carr and Assistant Secretary Roth,

We write to urge your agencies to assist in resolving major reported cellular network outages in Boulder County, Colorado, following signal adjustments made to comply with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) regulations protecting the Table Mountain Radio Quiet Zone.

As we understand it, in late 2024, the NTIA Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS) notified three major cellular carriers that they needed to modify their signals received within the Table Mountain Radio Quiet Zone, the 50-mile radius where federal regulations limit radio transmission frequency that could otherwise interfere with the research of the ITS, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Geological Survey. The three major carriers have publicly stated that they have since adjusted their signals to comply with Table Mountain frequency limits.

However, these signal adjustments appear to have significantly downgraded cellular network coverage for Boulder County consumers. Our constituents in the nearby towns of Longmont and Niwot have filed more than 100 formal complaints with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reporting that they cannot make phone calls or use data on their cell phones, even when their devices indicate full network coverage. While the three major carriers have publicly indicated they will further upgrade their networks to compensate for the necessary signal reductions, our constituents lack vital cell connectivity in the interim.

Full cell phone coverage is indispensable to everyday life. When people leave their homes, they expect to be able to use their cell phones for navigation, payment, and communication with others. Cell phones are also vital for public safety in Boulder County, which is prone to rapidly escalating wildfires. Our constituents use their cell phones to notify their families and friends that they are safe during wildfire season and to warn neighbors of unpredictable wildfire shifts. For example, the 2021 Marshall Fire, which killed two people and burned nearly 1,000 structures, progressed so rapidly that many residents would not have known to immediately evacuate had they not been alerted by a phone call or text from someone they knew.

Given all of the foregoing, we respectfully request that FCC and NTIA officials meet with carriers immediately in order to find a solution that will allow them to restore functional cellular service to their customers as soon as possible. We also request that you update our offices and local governments on the outcome of that meeting and report back to us on your progress as all parties work to restore full connectivity.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator