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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON RULES

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write to request the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “the Commission”) immediately address deficiencies with respect to FCC mapping of available broadband service and the standards that determine a serviced area, both of which neglect to consider the distinct challenges in providing high-speed broadband service in mountain communities across Colorado.

By way of background, I represent Colorado’s Second Congressional District in the United States Congress. Our district encompasses 11 counties across Northwestern Colorado, and includes some of the most visited National Forests in the country. As you can imagine, inadequate broadband connection in these areas of Colorado places a significant strain on my constituents and raises serious safety concerns for these communities and residents.

While I appreciate that the FCC has worked to provide improved broadband access across the country — per the mandate of the Congress — as stated above, current mapping mechanisms of the Commission and the corresponding standards it utilizes appear grossly deficient. In short, under the existing FCC maps, many of the areas referenced above appear to have full mobile broadband coverage, which is not reflective of the reality on the ground. The resulting inaccuracies are major impediments to unserved and underserved communities seeking federal and state resources that are specifically designed to address broadband gaps such as these.

Substantial segments of public roads and highways—many of which are the only access routes for local ski resort areas — including in Eagle, Gilpin, and Summit Counties, and the Town of Blue River, for example — lack any mobile broadband service, contrary to what is currently listed on the FCC’s coverage map. These heavily visited communities in Colorado urgently

require reliable mobile broadband to respond to emergencies. These areas, and other similarly situated mountain towns, regularly experience thousands of daily vehicle trips at elevations where severe winter storms can occur during nearly every month of the year, and the threat of wildfire looms whenever snow is not on the ground.

In sum, I respectfully request that the FCC address the specific deficiencies in the accuracy of the current broadband coverage maps detailed above, and to work with our office and local jurisdictions to accomplish the same. I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter, and await your reply. I look forward to continuing to work with the Commission to address broadband availability for mountain communities in Colorado.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230