

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2015

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are writing to support an Alaska specific solution for our rate-of-return and competitive carriers that mirrors the Commission's sensible solution for the State's price cap carrier. As you well know, in many of our remote Alaska communities broadband is a crucial component in public safety, educating our youth, healing our sick, and creating economic opportunity for all. We recognize and commend your dedication to bringing broadband to the most remote and sparsely populated regions of our nation.

Thank you for visiting Alaska last summer to meet our providers and to listen to their stories of success and hear firsthand the challenges in deploying wireline and wireless broadband throughout our vast State. Stabilizing the high-cost fund in Alaska is essential to realizing the statutory goal of providing our most isolated rural consumers with communications services that are comparable to those available in the nation's urban centers.

It is our expectation that remote Alaska does not get lost in the national rate-of-return reform discussion. We urge you and your colleagues on the Commission to approve and implement an Alaska specific solution as part of your effort to advance broadband through universal service reform by the end of the year. If it is not possible to include an Alaska-specific solution in the Commission's national rate-of-return reform, at a minimum we request you set aside the current high cost funding currently going to Alaska.

Our rate-of-return and wireless carriers cannot afford to allow this national reform effort to bypass them, or constrain an Alaska specific solution. Thank you for your consideration of this important Alaskan issue. We look forward to hearing your plans for a more complete solution for Alaska rate-of-return carriers.

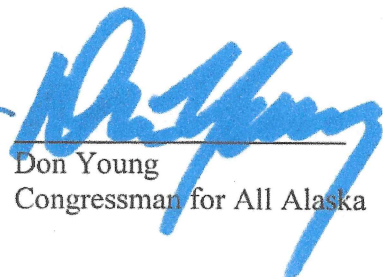
Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Don Young  
Congressman for All Alaska