



Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission

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Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

It is with great respect for your efforts in progressing the broadband networks that I am writing this letter. There has never been a greater need for such a network to exist than the time in which we find ourselves. The powers that be, have made it even more necessary for our region to have access to broadband that truthfully is so desperately lacking for many in our area.

As Director of the Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Commission, I see the direct effects that affordable, high-speed broadband has to offer within the six counties that my staff and I serve. Strictly from the Economic standpoint of a very rural region, The FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I Auction is an opportunity that rural Missouri needs.

That being said, we are concerned that service in our area is being misrepresented in terms of coverage being provided. I am aware that local companies have challenged the RDOF based on data that is simply not accurate and misleading. Concern also arises when there is no investigation or verification by the FCC on such claims. We would ask that the FCC would let the auction take place and let the auction rules be applied in order to allow broadband gains to be moved forward in our region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kelly Mitchell

Kelly Mitchell
Executive Director
Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Commission

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