

October 9, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

While I am encouraged to hear that your agency is planning to implement a formal public feedback mechanism to improve broadband coverage maps, the people of West Virginia need help now. Until a more viable process is established, I will be providing you with real coverage data from people on the ground in West Virginia and a brief description of the challenges they face personally, professionally, and economically as a result of their unreliable broadband service.

I have received correspondence from a constituent in Clarksburg, West Virginia, the home of the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival. The area boasts a rapidly growing airport with connections to Chicago and Washington, DC and the Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex, which hosts some of our nation's most critical aerospace companies, including Aurora Flight Sciences, a subsidiary of Boeing; Bombardier; Pratt & Whitney Engine Services; and Lockheed Martin. It is also home to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, the largest division of the FBI, which employs thousands in the community. Any impediment to internet access could be detrimental to this bustling area.

West Virginia is a wonderful place to live with vibrant, caring communities that value connection. However, the lack of broadband access is having devastating impacts on residents' ability to work, learn, and connect in my state. Ironically, the same things that attract people to live and work in my beautiful state - our tall mountains, lush forests, rolling hills and roaring rapids - make broadband deployment astronomically expensive.

Using the Frontier Wireless Speed Testing Application on a Dell laptop to test their fixed broadband service from Frontier Communications, my office received the following speed results at Clarksburg:

- 1.7mbps down / 0.60mbps up

These numbers are well below your agency's definition of broadband and the advertised speed they were given by their provider. I hope you will use this data to validate the information West Virginia's broadband providers have submitted to the FCC and ensure that they are eligible for any and all relevant broadband grants and other resources. Places like Clarksburg depend on the promise of universal service, and it is our job to make good on that promise.

Sincerely,

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator