

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 Beverly, West Virginia, a short drive to Monongahela National Forest and Kumbrabow State Forest. Historic Beverly was one of the first settlements west of the Alleghenies, with dozens of pre-Civil War buildings and a rich history. It is just a short drive to the Rich Mountain Battlefield, one of the first engagements of the Civil War. Thousands of tourists traveling to the Monongahela National Forest and Kumbrabow, pass through Beverly each year. Unfortunately, reliable broadband connectivity is something both tourists and residents of the Beverly area lack consistently. This lack of quality internet coverage in Beverly, like many small towns across the state, continues to stunt economic development projects that could provide jobs local residents.

Using the Frontier Speed Test Application on an Apple iPhone 5SE to test their fixed broadband service from Frontier Communications, my office received the following speed results at Beverly:

- 2.1mbps down / 0.30mbps 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 Beverly 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