

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

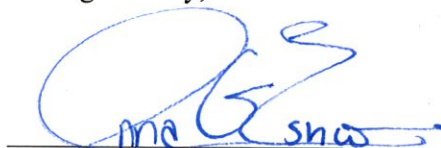
Dear Chairman Pai,

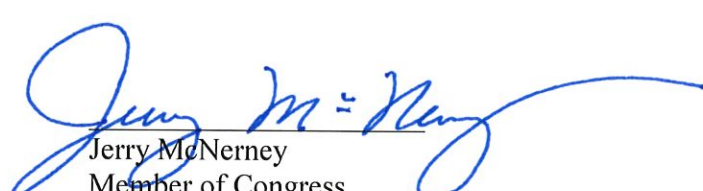
We are concerned that the FCC is moving forward on its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) proposal in a haphazard manner without consulting states that share the goal of effectively serving residents with broadband. In particular, the requests of the State of California, the most populous state in the country, are being overlooked. We urge you to delay considering the RDOF proposal until you can update it to ensure that federal and state mechanisms for investing in broadband infrastructure are better coordinated.


Nearly half a million households in California lack access to broadband. Earlier this month, California Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a 'Broadband for All' strategy to begin to solve this problem. We understand that the staff of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) met with FCC staff to request federal-state partnerships as part of RDOF, which the FCC has ignored.


Given that up to \$2.11 billion of the RDOF could be available for California bids according to the CPUC, we urge you to delay considering the proposal until you can update it to better align with the efforts of California, and the 30 other states that administer broadband access programs to ensure that the RDOF is deployed in the most effective and prudent way possible.

Most gratefully,


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner