

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Please consider this request for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a report to monitor and measure the effects of modifications adopted as part of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Order intended to modernize the high-cost component of the Universal Service Fund (USF) and advance the availability of broadband services.

As implementation of the USF reforms already adopted by the FCC moves forward, an independent report will promote a data-driven, transparent process for evaluation of those changes and the effectiveness of their implementation.

To aid Congress in monitoring and measuring the effects of FCC reforms to USF, we ask you to prepare a report providing detailed measurements, statistics, and metrics with respect to, but not limited to:

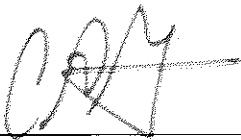
- The progress of implementation of those modifications adopted in Order FCC 11-161;
- The effects of those modifications on retail end user rates for voice and broadband services; including disparities and/or trends on retail rates in rural and urban areas;
- The effect of the reforms on average fixed and mobile broadband Internet access speeds available to residential and business consumers; including disparities and/or trends on broadband speeds in rural and urban areas;
- The magnitude and pace of investments in broadband networks following enactment of the reforms, including, but not limited to, investments financed by United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Programs; including disparities and/or trends on investment in rural and urban areas;
- The effects of the reforms on access and adoption of broadband Internet services by end users; and

- The effects on state universal service funds and carrier of last resort requirements.

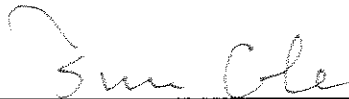
Please include in your report all data that you and your staff deem relevant to and supportive of any conclusions drawn with respect to the effects of the FCC's reforms and any disparities or trends detected in the items subject to the report. Such data will help ensure Congress has the information needed to evaluate whether and to what degree the FCC's reforms are promoting the affordability and accessibility of voice and broadband services as may be provided by different kinds of carriers in various rural and urban areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

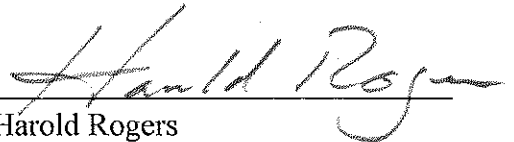
Sincerely,



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



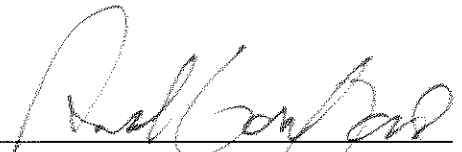
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Harold Rogers
Member of Congress



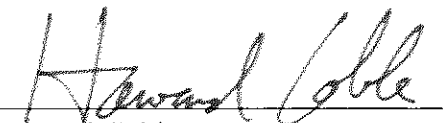
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



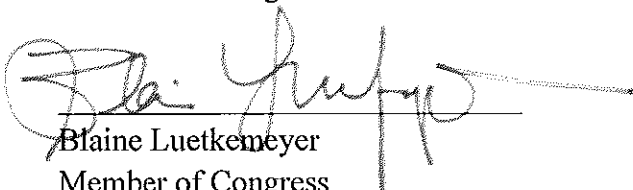
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress



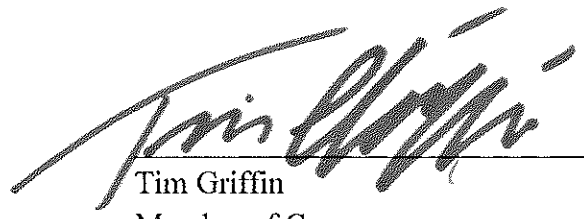
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



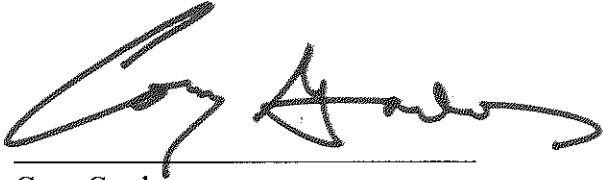
Tom Rice
Member of Congress



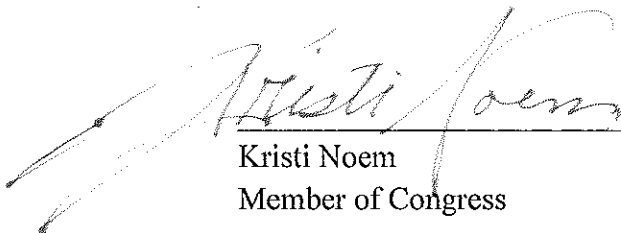
Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



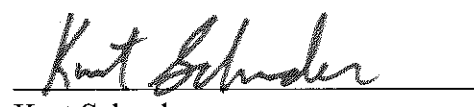
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



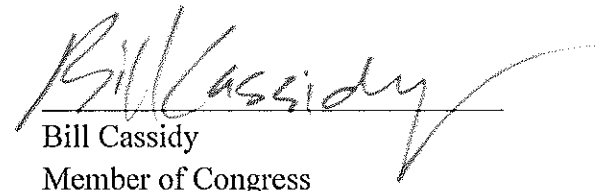
Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



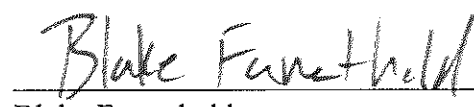
Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



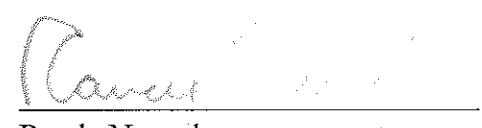
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



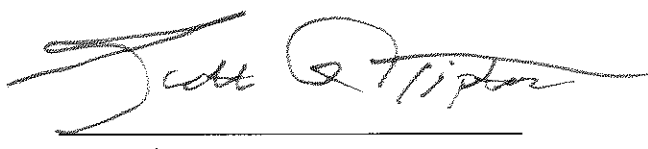
Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



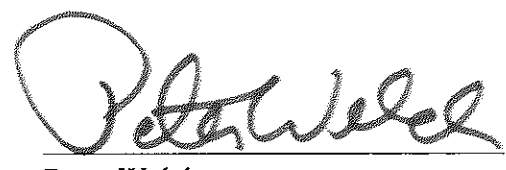
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



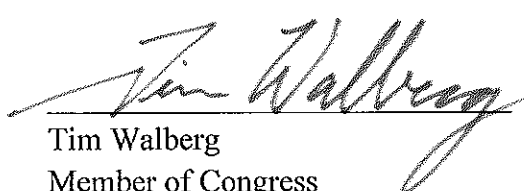
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



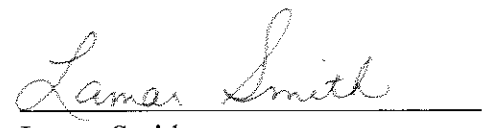
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



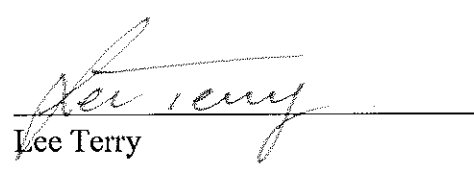
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



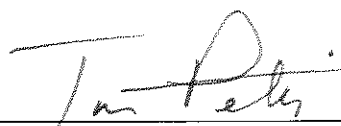
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



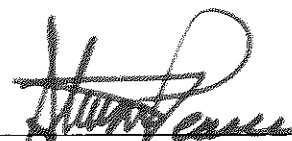
Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Tom Petri
Member of Congress



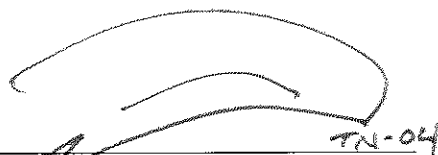
Steve Pearce
Member of Congress




Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



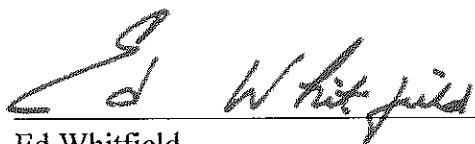
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



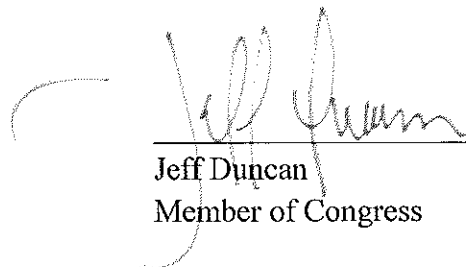
Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



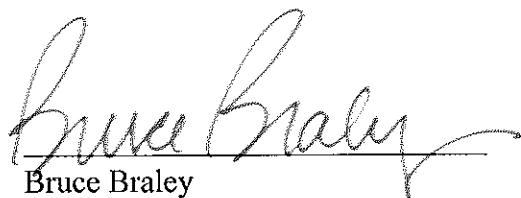
Billy Long
Member of Congress



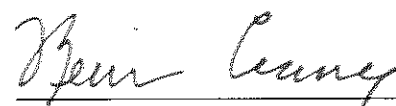
Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



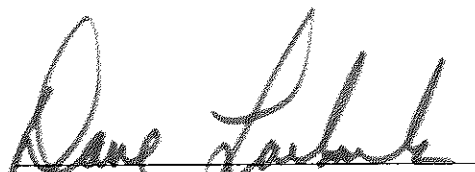
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



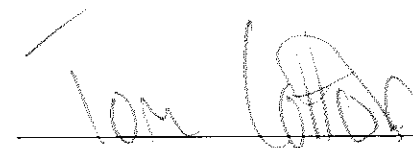
Bruce Braley
Member of Congress




Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



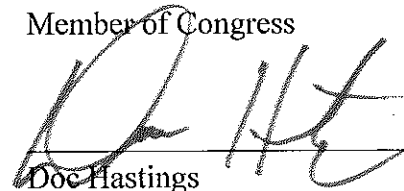
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



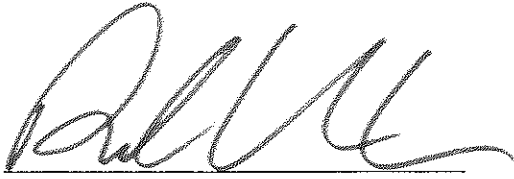
Tom Cotton
Member of Congress



Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress



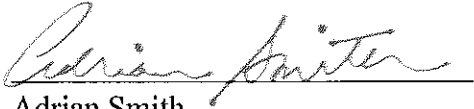
Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



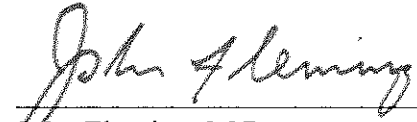
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



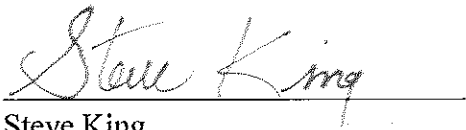
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



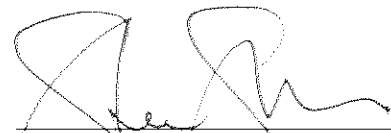
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



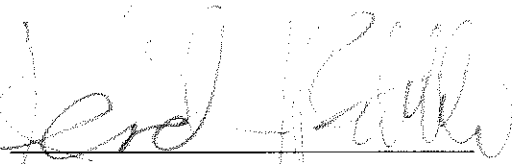
Steve Stockman
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



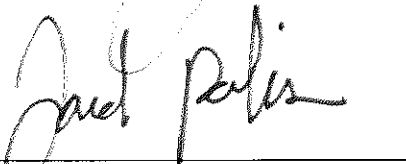
Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



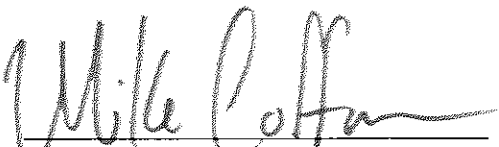
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



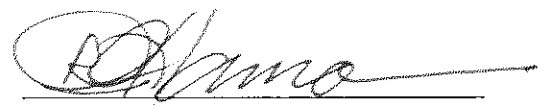
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress

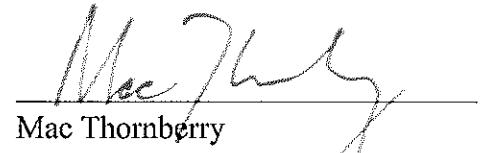



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

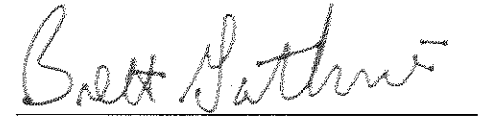



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress

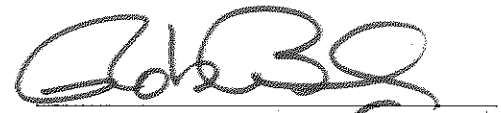

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

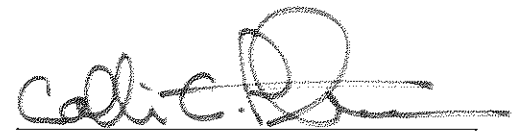

Bill Owens
Member of Congress

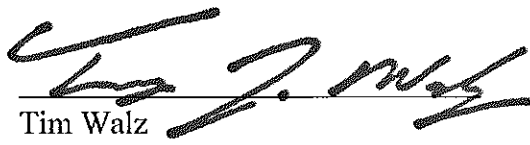

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

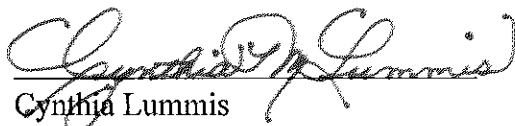

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

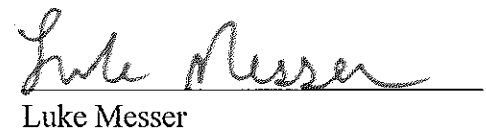

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Tim Walz
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress


Luke Messer
Member of Congress