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,

[Signature]

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

[Signature]

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

[Signature]

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

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Sam Graves
Member of Congress

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