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**WTA Endorses FCC Chairman Pai's Keep America Connected Pledge**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 16, 2020)** – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband endorses the pledge announced last week by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai to keep Americans connected to vital telecommunications services during possible disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The pledge asks individual telecommunications providers to commit to not terminating service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills and waive any late fees that any customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic. It also commits companies to opening their Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.

“WTA members have always worked with their customers during difficult times, and they will continue to do so during the COVID-19 pandemic. We’ve publicized this pledge among our member companies, and we’ve encouraged them to commit to it,” said Derrick Owens, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs for WTA.

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*WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents more than 340 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA's members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit [www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org).*