

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 14, 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 Great Cacapon, West Virginia which is a short drive to Cacapon Resort State Park. The park, which is a popular spot for fishing, hiking and camping, is also undergoing an expansion right now, which will transform the area and provide an opportunity to bring more visitors to the park.

With places like Cacapon Resort State Park, it is no secret that West Virginia is an outdoorsman's dream and the perfect location for an office retreat or a weekend getaway. However, while people may choose to visit my state to unplug, that does not necessarily mean they want to be completely disconnected. The lack of broadband access is having devastating impacts on the tourism industry in my state, one of our largest economic drivers. Further, the lack of quality internet coverage in Great Cacapon is hurting students who are unable to complete their homework or use online textbooks because of a slow or non-existent connection.

Using the Ookla Speed Testing Application on an iPad to test their fixed broadband service from Frontier Communications, my office received the following speed results at Great Cacapon

- 5.88mbps down / 0.62mbps 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 Great Cacapon 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