

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.

My office received speed tests from Renick, West Virginia where customers are being charged for much more than the technology will provide them with. Renick is located just on the edge of the George Washington and Jefferson national forests and adjacent to the National Radio Quiet Zone. The lack of efficient and reliable broadband access to the town of Renick is detrimental to the area's economy, driven primarily by the national forests and ski resorts nearby. Ironically, the same things that attract people to visit my beautiful state - our tall mountains, lush forests, rolling hills and roaring rapids - make broadband deployment astronomically expensive.

Using the Ookla Speed Testing Application on a Windows 10 computer to test their fixed broadband service from Frontier Communications, my office received the following speed results at Renick:

- 5.87mbps down / 0.59mbps 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 Renick 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