

Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative  
U.S. House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator or Representative:

I am a member of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company/Federated Telephone Cooperative, a small, rural telecommunications cooperative located in rural Minnesota. Farmers/Federated provides a wide-array of communications services like telephone, Internet and TV. Farmers/Federated serves my community and they are a community-based communications provider striving to provide high-quality, affordable service to me, my family, my neighbors and our local businesses.

Our communities are shrinking, but the technology that we should have access to is huge. Many small businesses in my community depend on access to affordable, quality broadband service to serve customers like me. They need to be competitive with businesses in nearby and distant cities, as well as places around the world. It's a competitive world, no doubt, and the least of those who should be hindered are the rural population. We've been patient; it takes a lot of resources and commitment to provide state of the art technology to rural areas. Farmers / Federated has invested a lot of money in my future technology; let's not put up mandatory roadblocks to keep them from giving me what I need to be a high tech user. I fear for the future of rural America. Without the deployment of broadband with robust speeds, our rural community will fall behind in terms of economic development, educational opportunities, advances in health care and our quality of life.

I am extremely concerned with the FCC's National Broadband Plan. The plan will have serious negative consequences for consumers, like me, living in rural America. What will the Connect America Fund do for me and my community? It will create a huge rift by calling for broadband speeds of 100 mbps to 100 million homes in urban areas while only supporting a trickling of 4 mbps in rural areas.

This large disparity is unacceptable. If you agree, then I urge you to contact the FCC to tell them so. Quality broadband service is fundamental to sustaining and bringing highpaying jobs to our rural communities. The FCC plan should not undercut the investment and commitment of my cooperative, of which I am an owner, to deploy broadband service to me and the rest of your constituents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,