January 28, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly
The Honorable Brendan Carr
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, WC Docket No. 19-126; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel and Starks,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (PA Chamber), the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, thank you for your leadership and efforts to ensure citizens across our state and the nation have access to reliable broadband infrastructure. The PA Chamber’s membership comprises nearly 10,000 member companies across all industrial and commercial sectors, and these companies rely on telecommunications and broadband infrastructure to grow and prosper. Our organization supports efforts that reduce regulatory burdens and eliminate costs that impede the ability of the public and private sectors to work together to provide essential infrastructure services.

We support broadly the aims of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and the Commission’s desire to ensure deployment and investment in rural broadband is protected. We must respectfully join with our members and other stakeholders who are encouraging you to reconsider the potentially burdensome letter of credit obligations contained in the draft order. We encourage the Commission to proceed with a revised order that provides for a wide range broadband providers to participate in the program.

As our economy continues to be more reliant on the safe, secure and efficient transfer of data over a diverse array of networks, we appreciate the Commission’s efforts to ensure the rural sections of Pennsylvania and the nation are not left behind. Thank you for your consideration of our comments in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sunday
Director, Government Affairs