



March 10, 2015

Honorable Governor Nikki Haley
Attn: Josh Baker, Budget Director
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of the nearly 900 small, community-based, rural communications network and service operators represented by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, I am writing to bring to your attention the technological vision, entrepreneurship and ongoing commitment these companies have to the communities in which they live and serve. These companies operate in some of the more costly and challenging regions of the nation and yet strive at every turn to deliver high-quality, affordable advanced communications services to consumers.

In fact, NTCA members have long played an essential role in deploying state-of-the-art communications infrastructure and services to benefit rural Americans residing throughout vast portions of 46 states. The territories they serve encompass more than 40% of the nation's land mass, and on average, they serve approximately seven subscribers per square mile.

Access to robust, affordable broadband is a crucial component in sustaining and enhancing American leadership in innovation, technological advances and economic development. Nevertheless, there is still much to be done to fully realize a broadband vision that both stimulates and sustains investment in the hardest-to-serve areas of our country. I am confident that the can-do spirit and proven track record of NTCA's members, together with stable, carefully constructed public policies, will continue to help lead the way toward achieving this vision. In particular, NTCA looks forward to working together with you and your many national, state and local elected colleagues and partners to foster a policy environment that recognizes the unique circumstances of operating in rural America, accounts for the challenges faced by those operating there, and builds upon the tools and policies already in place to ensure "universal service" is truly achieved and sustained.

In the coming weeks our advocacy staff will be touching base with each of your offices to provide you with additional information surrounding the many successes of rural communications providers as well as the challenges they and their communities continue to confront. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 703-351-2000 or sbloomfield@ntca.org, or NTCA Vice President of Advocacy Initiatives Tom Wacker at 703-351-2039 or twacker@ntca.org, with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bloomfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer