State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As governor of the State of South Carolina, I want to remind the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that our state has already passed laws regarding local broadband access, and therefore, it would be entirely inappropriate for the FCC to either strike down or usurp the state's authority into what is clearly a state's issue. Municipalities are subdivisions of the states, not the United States, and I ask that the FCC not bypass state authority as an attempt to directly govern local jurisdictions in disregard of governors and state legislatures.

Every day, I work to build a better business climate for South Carolina, our citizens, and our businesses. I want my state to compete in a 21st Century economy, and to do that, we need 21st Century infrastructure and technology – what we do not need is federal administrative intrusion into our state's business practices.

As a matter of policy, South Carolinians believe that the private sector can provide higher quality, more sustainable broadband services with lower risk to the taxpayer than local governments. As a matter of practicality, our state also recognizes that we should allow investment where a true need can be demonstrated. On these terms and with overwhelming bipartisan support in the state House and Senate, I signed into law Act 284 of 2012, focusing on the scope of government-owned communications providers on traditionally underserved areas.

South Carolina has already taken steps to address the connectivity needs of her citizens, providing market-based options to the public wherever possible. Therefore, I strongly urge the FCC not to interfere with state solutions to state problems. If I can be of further service, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Nikki R. Haley