



Don J. Cameron
Board President
General Manager,
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

August 23, 2018

Joshua Eddy
Executive Director

Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi
VP & Chief Operating
Officer for Pacific Asian
Consortium in
Employment

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Sustainable Conservation

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Bransford Farms

Nancy Casady
General Manager
Ocean Beach People's
Organic Food Co-Op

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College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
at the University of
California, Davis

Michael Gallo, Co-owner
Joseph Gallo Farms

Crystal Hayling, Executive
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The Libra Foundation

Eric Holst,
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Martha Montoya,
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Los Kitos Produce

Frank Muller, Co-Owner
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Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

Andrew J. Thulin, Dean
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environmental
Sciences, California
Polytechnic State
University

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners:

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture is an advisory body to the governor and secretary of agriculture on issues impacting farmers and ranchers of the state. As the largest agricultural producer and exporter in the nation a variety of issues impact the economic viability of California's agricultural sector and the communities connected to it. However, no issue is more strongly linked to the economic development, health and safety of these communities than broadband connectivity.

One of the initiatives of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is 'Bridging the Digital Divide for All Americans' – this effort aims to connect the 30 million Americans who do not have broadband connectivity. In California, it is estimated that 3.8 million households lack meaningful internet access – approximately 16 percent are households located in rural areas. Since many California communities are 'rural in character' and do not meet the federal definition of rural, it is estimated that many more rural households are impacted.

As the FCC moves forward with programs to address the digital divide in rural areas of the nation, Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF-II) and others, this Board is encouraged that allocated funding through auctions will be proportional to the needs of unserved and underserved broadband populations nationally.

The Board appreciates your continued actions to address the digital divide within nation as well as a focus on assisting rural communities and communities that are 'rural in character.' Agriculture is a key industry for our nation and deploying broadband access to the nation's farmers and ranchers is vital to maintaining the farm economy and the communities in which they are based.

Sincerely,


Don J. Cameron

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
Michael Picker, California Public Utilities Commission
Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Amy Tong, California Broadband Council

