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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115
Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

December 7, 2015

Mr. Jeb Benedict
Vice President of Federal Regulatory Affairs and Regulatory Counsel
CenturyLink
1099 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Benedict:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Breaking Down Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, December 21, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Greg Watson, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Greg.Watson@mail.house.gov

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

cc: Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Attachment

Attachment 1—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan

I represent a state with real needs when it comes to broadband deployment. While I absolutely support efforts aimed at breaking down barriers slowing deployment, we also must commit to making the necessary investments. Through the Connect America Fund, the FCC incentivized carriers like CenturyLink to build to high-cost areas by offering them additional support. CenturyLink took the FCC up on its offer in 33 states.

Currently, the FCC is working to reform the universal service mechanism that supports rate-of-return carriers' deployment and maintenance of broadband services. As part of that effort, I support including a Tribal Broadband Factor that could drive millions of dollars in investments to some of our most vulnerable communities.

1. Mr. Benedict, what are the primary challenges to ensuring populations in difficult to serve regions are able to access affordable broadband? What can we do to make these areas more viable for carriers?