



Congressman Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 11, 2019

Re: Response to Written Testimony of Mr. Matthew Wood

Congressman Walden;

I am writing you in response to the written testimony of Mr. Matthew Wood, Vice President of Policy and General Counsel for the Free Press Action Fund submitted to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communication and Technology, dated March 12, 2019.

In response to Mr. Wood's first bullet on Page 25 of his written testimony: This FTTH deployment was limited in scope due to lack of available cash, ultimately only resulting in us building to about 700 homes in Hermiston. The loan we secured to do the build was obtained prior to the Open Internet Order and had to be guaranteed by Umatilla Electric Cooperative. Sadly, the project scope that we had hoped for was significantly limited due to a lack of capital.

In response to Mr. Wood's second bullet on Page 25 of his written testimony, we obtained the cable systems at zero dollars through RFP's from Boardman, Irrigon, Umatilla and unincorporated areas of NW Umatilla County, as they had been abandoned by their previous owner. We originally activated them with DOCSIS 2.0 Cable Modem Termination Systems (CMTS) bought on eBay. They allowed us to provide download speeds up to 30 Mbps. We upgraded the systems to DOCSIS 3.0 systems in 2016 using Huawei Distributed CMTS's using cash organically generated. This new, and extraordinarily cost-effective upgrade now allows us to offer speeds exceeding 100 Mbps to the home.

Mr. Wood's assertions are simply put, ill-informed and unfortunately tell a story far different (and not accurately) from the one that actually occurred here in Eastern Oregon. Had Mr. Wood simply picked up the phone or emailed, I would have helped him so that his testimony could be a complete representation of the facts.

I hope this helps bring clarity to the situation.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Joseph Franel', is written in a cursive style.

Joseph Franel
CEO