



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**\* \* \* PRESS STATEMENT \* \* \***

**ITTA STATEMENT ON CHAIRMAN PAI'S PROPOSAL FOR  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SPUR RURAL BROADBAND  
DEPLOYMENT**

(Washington, DC) The following statement was released today by ITTA - The Voice of America's Broadband Providers:

Chairman Pai's proposal to provide over \$500 million to promote additional broadband deployment to Americans living in rural areas is a much-needed step in the right direction. Over the past year, ITTA has worked hard to educate the Commission on the lack of adequate USF funding for rural companies and the need for additional funding to ensure that high-speed broadband is made available to consumers living in high-cost rural areas.

Recently, more than 60 elected and appointed officials including U.S. senators, members of the House of Representatives, governors, lieutenant governors, state public service commission members, and other state officials expressed strong support for the FCC to increase high-cost USF funding. The policymakers highlighted that further funding will allow many more rural consumers in their states to utilize the economic, healthcare, and educational opportunities afforded by access to broadband.

Chairman Pai's plan represents a welcome step in the Commission's efforts to stimulate broadband growth through adequate funding of the USF program for rate-of-return companies.

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ITTA represents communications companies that provide wireline and wireless broadband, voice, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across 45 states. For more information, please visit [www.itta.us](http://www.itta.us). Follow us on Twitter at @ITTAadvocacy.