



April 17, 2024

The Honorable August Pfluger
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Endorsement of Supporting National Security with Spectrum Act

Dear Representative August Pfluger:

The Rural Wireless Association, Inc. (“RWA”) offers its support for your introduction of the House companion bill to the Senate version of the Supporting National Security with Spectrum Act (S. 4049) so that the Federal Communications Commission’s Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act Reimbursement Program can be fully funded.

RWA is a 501(c)(6) trade association dedicated to promoting wireless opportunities for rural telecommunications companies who serve consumers who, reside, work, or travel in rural America. RWA’s members are small businesses serving or seeking to serve secondary, tertiary, and rural markets. Each of RWA’s member companies serves fewer than two million subscribers, but most member companies serve fewer than 100,000 subscribers. RWA has led the advocacy efforts for its member companies concerning this program since its inception and RWA continues to advocate for its member companies to ensure they have the necessary resources to rid their networks of the unsecure equipment and services.

This program has long gone underfunded. Participating carriers need additional funds immediately, beyond their pro-rated allocations, to continue maintaining their existing networks as they work tirelessly to rid their networks of unsecure equipment and services. The longer this program continues to go underfunded the more the Reimbursement Program costs will increase for participating carriers. Furthermore, some carriers will soon be forced to shut down portions of their existing networks, where they are the only broadband provider, due to having insufficient funds for servicing and/or upgrading their existing Huawei or ZTE networks that subscribers currently rely on. These potential shutdowns not only impact their own subscribers but the subscribers of Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile who travel through these rural areas and roam on these networks.

RWA’s impacted members only ask that Congress quickly provide full funding for the Reimbursement Program so that these networks do not end up being partially or completely shut down.

Once this companion legislation is introduced, RWA hopes that the Senate and House members can work quickly together to enact this legislation so that the threat to our national security and to our greater rural broadband connectivity is addressed.



Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist your efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Christopher E. Townson

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