October 20th, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator
1200 Washington Avenue South, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senator
60 Plato Boulevard East, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Smith,

We, the Minnesota members of the Red River Communications Board of Directors, along with the undersigned rural Minnesota residents, local civic leaders, and Minnesota customers of Red River Communications, thank you for your leadership on behalf of Minnesota's rural communities and your dedication to fully fund rural broadband.

We are writing to you today to request your help to correct a mistake that led to the elimination of FCC federal funding for broadband internet services in the rural Barnesville and Rollag communities.

Due to a clerical error made by a consultant working on behalf of the City of Barnesville, MN, our communities have lost federal funding supporting the rural broadband efforts of our local provider Red River Communications.
Both the City of Barnesville and the consulting firm have admitted to the unintentional error which inaccurately reported broadband being deployed for miles around the city.

Since learning of the mapping inaccuracy in 2019, Red River Communications has spent countless hours meeting with the FCC and other government officials, trying to remedy the situation to no avail.
Yet, the mistake resulted in the loss of millions of dollars of vital federal funding to the rural communities served solely by Red River Communications. Without this funding, there is a real chance of a sizeable rate increase for broadband services.

We need your help to ensure our communities continue to receive the federal funding (known as A-CAM II) necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure and help to keep broadband rate affordable.

We ask you, Senators Klobuchar and Smith, to call acting FCC Chairwoman Rosenworsel on the phone and encourage her coordinate efforts with the Wireline Bureau to act on the petition filed by Red River Communications. By pressing the Wireline Bureau to grant a revised A-CAM II offer, reflecting the updated Form 477 data, Red River Communications will receive the necessary federal funds to repay loans to install fiber-to-the-home broadband infrastructure and keep services rates economical.

Because of your efforts, Minnesotans will receive affordable broadband services essential for creating jobs, expanding economic opportunities, and improving healthcare and education.

Sincerely,

Directors Wayne Schindler & Jerry Janssen, Red River Board of Directors
(and the undersigned)

Signature	Full Name	Address	Date

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