

October 20, 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:

I am a resident of the Barnesville area of Minnesota. I thank you for your leadership on behalf of Minnesota's rural communities and your dedication to fully fund rural broadband.

Red River Communications, which provides broadband around Barnesville, ended up with a reduced funding award from the FCC for its broadband service. Red River Communications has indicated its reduced funding resulted from a mapping error that caused the FCC to believe Red River Communications competes with the Barnesville Telephone Company. Barnesville Telephone Company and Red River Communications do not compete in any territory.

Red River Communications has requested your assistance to restore FCC federal funding for broadband internet services in the rural Barnesville and Rollag communities. I write to you today to express my support for Red River Communications' efforts to restore its federal funding.

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.

I ask you to please help ensure our communities continue to receive the federal funding (known as A-CAM II) necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure and help keep broadband rates affordable.

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

Sincerely,

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Signature

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Full Name - Print

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Address, City

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Date