

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

January 25, 2018

Dear Chairman Pai,

It has been my honor to participate in policymaking to broaden the economic and educational opportunities of the residents I serve as San José's Mayor. It was my hope that I might have just such an opportunity on a broader scale through the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC).

When I joined this committee, I hoped to develop balanced, common-sense recommendations that will advance our goal of expanding broadband access across the country, particularly for the 34 million low-income and rural Americans who lack that access. I joined the BDAC cognizant that the composition of the panel heavily favored the industry, with more than three-quarters of the membership representing telecommunications companies or interests closely aligned with those companies. I'd hoped that through our work, we would be able to engage in constructive dialogue with the industry about how to bridge the digital divide, which you identified as your "top priority" at yesterday's meeting.

The chairs of the working groups on which I participated have been very cordial, and collaborative in tone, and I am grateful for that. However, after nine months of deliberation, negotiation, and discussion, we've made no progress toward a single proposal that will actually further the goal of equitable broadband deployment. Although we've adopted principles that pay lip service to that objective, not a single one of the draft recommendations attempts to meaningfully identify any new or significant resources to promote digital inclusion. My team's vocal attempts – and those of other stakeholders – to note that glaring omission have not resulted in any meaningful changes.

This became particularly apparent at our most recent meeting in Washington, DC. One working group, which did not have a single municipal representative among its 30+ participants, created a draft model state code that included provisions to eliminate all municipal control over when, how, and whether to accept industry applications for infrastructure deployment. Another working group had an industry representative dramatically re-write its draft municipal code in the 11th hour, pushing aside the product of months of the working group's deliberations. The result, in each case, were provisions that plainly prioritized industry interests.

It has become abundantly clear that despite the good intentions of several participants, the industry-heavy makeup of BDAC will simply relegate the body to being a vehicle for advancing the interests of the telecommunications industry over those of the public. The apparent goal is to create a set of

rules that will provide industry with easy access to publicly-funded infrastructure at taxpayer-subsidized rates, without any obligation to provide broadband access to underserved residents.

As a result, I am compelled to submit my resignation to the FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Board, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Liccardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and "L".

Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San José