Response to Written Question Submitted by Honorable Jerry Moran to Mike McCormick

Question 1. One of the few reassuring takeaways from the developments around the Mobility Fund eligibility map was the leadership demonstrated by the Kansas Farm Bureau in the challenge process. It is my understanding that the Kansas Farm Bureau was one of the first entities to petition for a waiver to participate in the MFII challenge process, and they coordinated heavily with many of their counterparts from other states, including the Mississippi Farm Bureau. How important was it for entities like the Kansas and Mississippi Farm Bureaus to coordinate with each other to identify best practices in their efforts to fix these maps?

Response. We feel that it is vital for organizations with similar constituencies to collaborate and coordinate together to fix the maps. We worked closely with the Kansas Farm Bureau as we began our challenge process. Our friends in Kansas were vital in advising us along the way as we developed a strategy to work in Mississippi on this issue. Moving forward, if FCC is able to better correct the maps, groups like Farm Bureau with large state memberships could serve as a key player to help validate the accuracy of the maps.

Question 2. Your testimony indicated that the Mississippi Farm Bureau collaborated with the state's public service commission to submit mobile speed test data. On the other hand, the Kansas Farm Bureau took a "crowdsourced" approach in which their members submitted challenge tests directly to the FCC's portal. Would you please describe the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?

Response. The Kansas Farm Bureau truly led the way for most of the other state Farm Bureaus in their efforts to challenge the accuracy of the FCC maps. The "crowdsourced" approach in Kansas was a very effective way to surface major areas of concern and then formally execute a valid challenge with all technical requirements. Due to a lack of adequate staffing, technical expertise, and time to crowdsource this data and then go out and execute the formal testing, we could not participate effectively in the process. The public service commission also had the same challenges with staffing and technical expertise. If we have a second opportunity to participate in another challenge process, "crowdsourcing" raw data will be something that we look at very closely.

Question 3. As the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), I have interest in seeing how NTIA could build upon the data collection of the FCC in its Form 477 process. More specifically, we have appropriated substantial resources in recent years to NTIA to broaden and update the National Broadband Map using their developed state partnerships. While NTIA has already announced its partnership with eight states to contribute data and other inputs into the map, would you agree that adding more state partnerships to contribute to the map would likely improve the overall accuracy of the map?

Response. Yes, we agree that more state partnerships to contribute to a new mapping effort would be very helpful in working with NTIA to aid in the development of more accurate broadband maps.