President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to emphasize our support for you to appoint Jessica Rosenworcel to a full term as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and to designate her the first female permanent Chair.

After your historic presidential win last year, several of us wrote to you regarding our support for Acting Chair Rosenworcel to become the permanent Chair of the FCC. Since then the Senate passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which includes $65 billion in broadband funding spread across multiple agencies including the FCC. This is on top of the nearly $27 billion that Congress appropriated in emergency relief to address the impacts of COVID-19, much of which is still being implemented. Given this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure all people have access to broadband, it is absolutely essential that there are trusted, qualified appointees leading these agencies to coordinate the deployment effort across your administration. Accordingly, the decision to nominate Acting Chair Rosenworcel to a full term as Commissioner and designate her as the permanent Chair of the FCC can no longer be delayed. We urge your administration to appoint her to this role as quickly as possible. Further delay simply puts at risk the major broadband goals that we share and that Congress has worked hard to advance as part of your administration’s agenda.

We represent 17 states and a wide range of political and policy views, but one thing we have in common is a belief that there is no better qualified or more competent person to lead the FCC at this important time than Acting Chair Rosenworcel. We have long experience working with her and her team, and she has already shown an ability to steer the FCC through these extraordinary and difficult times. Importantly, we believe that Acting Chair Rosenworcel will face few obstacles to her confirmation. She has previously been approved on a bipartisan basis, and was unanimously approved by the Senate in 2012. It will take months for a different nominee to move through the process, hire staff and begin implementing an agenda, leading to indecision and gridlock at the very time decisiveness is most critical. This will not be necessary if Acting Chair Rosenworcel is appointed Chair. Her continued leadership as Acting Chair has already demonstrated she will be successful at the job, and further delays will unnecessarily imperil our shared goal of achieving ubiquitous broadband connectivity.
There is no better qualified or more competent person to be appointed Commissioner and permanent Chair of the FCC than Jessica Rosenworcel, and we urge you to move forward with her nomination as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Gary Peters
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator