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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 23, 2015

Chairman Thomas E. Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to urge the FCC to work with Mobile Citizen and Mobile Beacon to prevent the loss of affordable internet service for thousands of Americans. Since 2010, these companies have offered internet access to schools, libraries, and nonprofits in need via an EBS Spectrum leasing agreement with Sprint. This partnership has given over 300,000 Americans access to affordable Internet, including 429 schools, 61 libraries, and 1,820 nonprofit organizations. In April 2014, Sprint informed these partners that its subsidiary, Clearwire, would be migrating subscribers from its Wimax network to LTE on November 6th 2015, leaving thousands of adults and children in the Twin Cities metro area alone without affordable access to the Internet.

Two affected organizations in my district, the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota, include the Project for Pride and Living (PPL) and PCs for Change. PPL serves 1,200 families and relies on mobile Internet from Mobile Citizen to run its programs that help adults secure employment and youth complete homework assignments. PCs for People, a digital inclusion organization, provides computers to families and has connected over 14,000 households to the Internet since the beginning of their partnership with Mobile Citizen and Mobile Beacon. Nearly 11,000 individuals in my district are losing this source of affordable access to the Internet.

All Americans deserve equal Internet access and are more likely to succeed if they are connected and engaged. I urge the Federal Communications Commission to work with Mobile Citizen and Mobile Beacon to address this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Ellison".

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress

Cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly