

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 28, 2016

Glen F. Post, III
Chief Executive Officer and President
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA 71203

Dear Mr. Post:

We are writing to express our deep concern about CenturyLink's decision to outsource installation, activation, test and turn-up work derived from its Connect America Fund – Phase II (CAF-II) award. We are strong supporters of the FCC's Connect America Fund and its efforts to provide vital broadband services to 23 million Americans residing in rural, uncovered areas.

We were pleased last August to learn that CenturyLink accepted the FCC's offer of \$505.7 million annually (\$3 billion over six years) in CAF-II funds to extend its network to over 1.1 million rural households and businesses in 33 states – making CenturyLink the largest recipient of CAF-II funding. We also applaud the 100-plus union jobs CenturyLink has created in support of CAF-II network build-out activities.

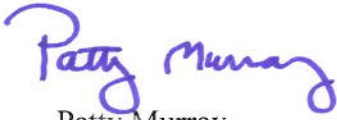
But we were disappointed to learn that CenturyLink has decided to outsource the majority of the CAF-II installation, activation, test, and turn-up and enablement of new network and network devices to contractors rather than its current union-represented workforce. We understand that this build-out began in May and will continue through 2020. Given the long-term nature of this project, it is unclear why CenturyLink decided to contract out work that its current employees could perform. Especially with a six-year project timeline, we do not understand why you do not have ample time to plan and construct an arrangement wherein CenturyLink's current workforce can assist in this build-out, similar to your temporary, or "regular term" workers who are assigned to specific projects over a limited time period.

Throughout the development of the CAF-II program, we fully expected the CAF-II investment to support quality, sustainable jobs in rural communities. CenturyLink's decision to utilize contractors as opposed to its own qualified, career employees undermines the job security and middle-class living standards that are so important to the economic strength of rural communities.

CenturyLink technicians have years of experience installing, activating, and testing broadband equipment and networks. They know the state of the current network and are already on-site to do the work. After learning that the Communications Workers of America (CWA) fully supported CenturyLink's campaign to perform this build-out, we were disappointed to see CenturyLink abandon the very partnership that helped it to attain CAF-II funding.

It is our understanding that CenturyLink did not engage with or consult CWA and their representatives on ways in which CenturyLink could meet its CAF-II deployment obligations by using its own union-represented employees. While we appreciate CenturyLink's recent engagement with CWA, we hope to see increased communication on this matter. Federal funds should not be used to discriminate against qualified, career employees. We urge you to reconsider your decision to outsource CAF-II work and to collaborate with CWA to develop a plan that will use union-represented, qualified career employees to complete this project. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator