

ATTORNEY GENERAL LESLIE RUTLEDGE

May 08, 2020

Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

My office has become aware that a Missouri-based telephone company, FDF Communications Co., d/b/a BPS Networks, recently challenged the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Auction to provide affordable, high-speed broadband access to portions of rural Arkansas. I am also aware that there have been numerous concerns voiced that the services actually provided by this company may have been misrepresented.

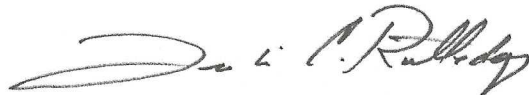
My office is in the process of investigating whether FDF Communications Co., d/b/a BPS Networks or its affiliates has authority to provide telecommunication services in the State of Arkansas, and whether such services it claims to offer are truly being provided and are in accordance with Arkansas law. I would ask that the FCC also thoroughly investigate the claims which have been made by this company. I also ask that the RDOF Phase I Auction of the proposed blocks in Arkansas continue to take place within the rules already contained within the Federal Register posting.

Rural Arkansas continues to experience a lack of broadband access. This lack of access impacts both educational and job opportunities for the people living in those rural areas. That is why both federal and state agencies are working to expand broadband in underserved areas. When a company misrepresents that it provides service to a rural area, when in reality it does not, that misrepresentation has the

very real impact of blocking access to funds and opportunities intended to increase broadband service.

Thank you for your actions to bring affordable broadband access to rural Arkansas, and for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie C. Rutledge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

Leslie C. Rutledge  
Arkansas Attorney General