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To: [mappingrfc](#)
Subject: Broadband Connectivity
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I am writing to comment on the need for broadband connectivity in rural America and particularly in Pender County, NC.

Agriculture is the biggest economic driver in Pender County and many other counties across America. There are areas in the county where internet service is non-existent. As technological advances become more prevalent in day to day farming activities, access to internet service in all parts of the country are desperately needed. Farmers are becoming more technologically savvy and the equipment they use - tractors and combines - have more computer technology on board than the Apollo 11 lunar lander.

With that data capture and transmission is vital for farmers to identify areas in fields where crop conditions are poor. Internet access is needed to allow them to collect and transmit data on the go as they are working in fields to produce crops to feed us.

Just as critical as broadband service, wide spread cell phone coverage is equally important in rural areas and is being overlooked. Cell phones with no signal cannot access internet feeds coming from cell towers from phone/internet carriers. This lack of cellular service disrupts data transfer carried through the internet. It affects fire, rescue and EMS services in areas where mapping is needed to reach a remote field or timber stand in the case of an emergency. It affects people commuting through remote areas who might need emergency service on the highway.

In my opinion cellular service and broad band connectivity are not mutually exclusive services in the 21st century. The lack of one or both affects safety, commerce, life and funding for wide spread service to rural and remote areas is just as critical as it is for more developed, populated areas. Almost no one leaves home without a cell phone in the US today and whether they are just calling or are accessing information on the go, these services are vital.

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