

DISTRICT OFFICES

355 S. WASHINGTON STREET
DANVILLE, IN 46122
(317) 718-0404
(317) 718-0405 (FAX)

337 COLUMBIA ST.
LAFAYETTE, IN 47901
(765) 838-3930
(765) 838-3931 (FAX)



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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TODD ROKITA
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

ROKITA.HOUSE.GOV

Maurita

Mooreville, IN

Dear

Thank you for expressing your concerns to me regarding broadband internet access in the Mooreville area. It is good to hear from you.

Since we met before my Mooreville Congress on Your Corner event on August 21, 2013, I have looked into the issue you raised regarding broadband internet service, dead zones, and census block data used to update the National Broadband Map. I appreciate your desire for broadband access and the efforts you have made to ensure your community has up-to-date infrastructure. I understand broadband internet availability is important to many Hoosiers, as it can greatly improve education, health care, and public safety.

As you know, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is working with telecommunication providers to increase broadband internet adoption across the country. They primarily encourage this modernization through grants provided via the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the State Broadband Initiative. The NTIA works with state-based entities and nonprofits to facilitate broadband adoption. To date, the NTIA has provided nearly \$3.3 million to the Indiana Office of Technology to facilitate broadband data collection.

Data collection helps the NTIA update the National Broadband Map, to give consumers and telecommunication providers a picture of broadband internet accessibility. Funding also goes to Indiana for the development and maintenance of www.indianabroadbandmap.com. I understand your concern that these maps do not account for individual residences; rather data is reported by census block. Providers consider a census block "served" so long as one residence within the block has broadband access. Census blocks are less than two square miles, and represent the smallest geographic unit for which the U.S. Census collects aggregate data.

While I share your concern with census block data, the NTIA determined this was the most appropriate method of breaking down broadband adoption. It is not a perfect system, but attempting to assess broadband availability to every service address in the country would be a time consuming and costly task. While there is no legislation