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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

October 7, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As Hurricane Matthew continues to threaten Florida and states along the east coast, data overage charges should be waived for individuals in areas being impacted by the hurricane. I urge you work within your authorities as well as with telecommunication companies so that Florida residents and others impacted by Hurricane Matthew can communicate and receive vital public safety information without concerns of excessive costs.

As you know, many rely on their cellular phones and mobile devices, especially during natural disasters. However, without Wi-Fi, which can often be down during hurricanes, many are limited in the amount of data they can use without facing financial penalties. Suspending data overage fees will help put safety first by allowing those impacted by a hurricane to access updated weather information, receive alerts from law enforcement and emergency officials, and communicate with loved ones.

I applaud companies that are already waiving data overage charges and ask the FCC to work with other providers to emphasize the value to public safety of doing so.

Thank you for your quick attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick E. Murphy".

Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS