

# National Veteran Small Business Coalition



***“One Cause, One Voice”***

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Headquarters

14001-C St. Germain Drive, #652  
Centreville, VA 20121

703-282-4140

[www.nvsbc.org](http://www.nvsbc.org)

October 31, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing commitment to eliminating the digital divide and leadership on behalf of veteran small business owners, innovators and entrepreneurs living in rural areas who currently lack access to reliable broadband service. At the National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC), we believe that too many veterans and veteran small business owners are held back from economic and federal contracting opportunities due to the lack of broadband connectivity.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration's Office of Rural Health, there are approximately 2.7 million veterans who live in rural areas and nearly half of them, 42 percent, do not have fixed broadband access at home.

The NVSBC is the largest non-profit trade association in the country representing veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses in the federal marketplace. We work to ensure that veteran-owned small businesses are given first consideration for federal contracting opportunities, and we believe that the nation as a whole benefits from veterans continuing to serve their country through enterprises and selling goods to the federal government.

For veterans to start a small business, successfully seek and obtain federal contracting work that fits their unique skills and experience and reach their full economic potential, it is essential they have access to broadband connectivity.

That is why the NVSBC recently joined a coalition called Connect Americans Now (CAN). The coalition, which represents over 200 members from a wide-array of backgrounds, advocates for a mixed-technology approach to eliminating the rural broadband gap that we agree must include innovative solutions like TV white space (TVWS) technology.

The FCC can act now to help close the digital divide by issuing a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on a petition recently submitted by Microsoft and supported in comments submitted by CAN and more than 25 other organizations to clear regulatory barriers to unleashing the full potential of TVWS.

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## *National Veteran Small Business Coalition*

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The NVSBC respectfully encourages you to issue a FBPRM on this petition as an important step toward ensuring veteran-owned small businesses have access to broadband connectivity.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership on rural broadband connectivity.

Sincerely,



Scott Denniston  
Executive Director  
National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)



**National Veteran  
Small Business  
Coalition**

CELEBRATING  
**10**  
YEARS