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# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

## FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER LYNDA LOVEJOY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

## Commissioner Lovejoy Joins FCC Commissioner Visiting Navajo Nation for Expanding Broadband

**SANTA FE** – New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy participated in two roundtable discussions held in Albuquerque and the Navajo Nation on Monday, August 8, focusing on expanding broadband access in New Mexico and the economic opportunities it provides.

The roundtable discussion held at the All Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque and organized by U.S. Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District and U.S. Senator Tom Udall, welcomed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Mignon Clyburn as well as New Mexico Senator Michael Padilla, representing the state's District 14. The dignitaries were joined by industry stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities to buildout broadband in communities across New Mexico, particularly in unserved and underserved, rural communities throughout the state and within the Navajo Nation.

Following the morning roundtable, Lovejoy, Luján and Clyburn visited the Navajo Nation to continue the conversation on broadband deployment at Navajo Technical University located in Crownpoint.

In New Mexico, 61 percent of the rural population and 80 percent of residents on tribal lands lack access to broadband service.

Commissioner Clyburn's visit to New Mexico is part of her Connecting Communities Tour, where she is traveling the country to hear first-hand the opportunities and challenges of bringing robust, affordable communications services to all Americans.

"I applaud Commissioner Clyburn in advocating for greater broadband expansion for rural communities," Commissioner Lovejoy stated. "I regard her as a champion for launching high speed connectivity to improve the health of our Nations. New Mexico is one of the most rural states in the country and has one of the largest representations of tribal members as well. In every study of broadband availability conducted, New Mexico is rated at the lower end of broadband access. Former President Bill Clinton came to the Navajo Nation and spoke at Shiprock, New Mexico in April 2000, where he announced his key technological initiatives that aimed at overcoming the digital divide and creating economic opportunities for youth, families and communities left behind. Now, 16 years later, while the needle has slightly moved, we can't forget that the job to provide basic telephone services hasn't been accomplished yet for many tribal families, where not even dial tone or mobile phone services are available to them. It is my hope that the FCC will continue to encourage deployment of basic services and develop more programs to expand broadband, never forgetting the special circumstances under which our tribal citizens live."

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