

FCC wants to fix maps that now overstate broadband coverage

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In this April 12, 2019 file photo, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai speaks during an event in Washington. Pai announced during a Senate hearing Wednesday, June 12, that he wants phone and cable companies to be more specific about where they offer service and for maps to incorporate public feedback. A vote is planned in August. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)



U.S. telecom regulators are trying to fix faulty maps that don't reflect which Americans have access to high-speed internet.

Lawmakers and public-interest groups have lambasted the Federal Communications Commission for inaccurate maps that overstate coverage and hinder government efforts to subsidize <u>internet service</u> in unserved rural areas.

A big part of the problem is how the FCC measures coverage. The country is divided into census blocks, which can stretch hundreds of square miles in <u>rural areas</u>. The FCC now considers the entire block served even if just one location has service.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai announced during a Senate hearing Wednesday that he wants phone and cable companies to be more specific about where they offer service and for maps to incorporate public feedback. A vote is planned in August.

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