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Subcommittee on Defense
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Subcommittee on Surface Transportation
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September 18, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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UNIV. Serv. Fund
High Cost
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Dear Chairman Powell:

In September, 1999, the Federal Communications Commission released a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* regarding the promotion and deployment of telecommunications services to American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands are considered unserved and underserved areas for telecommunications services. These insular areas have been contributing and continue to contribute to the Universal Service Fund without receiving the benefits from the Rural Health Care Program telecommunication discounts which were intended for such areas.

The Insular areas are in need of assistance. I am concerned that the docket has been open since September, 1999, without resolution. Within all applicable rules and regulations, I would appreciate your consideration in expediting a decision on this matter.

Aloha

DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:kk

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