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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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RM-11355

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May 4, 2007

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RM
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The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are **writing** to request that the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adhere to its February **18,2008** sunset date for the end of the Commission's requirement that commercial mobile services provide analog service to cellular telephones. We believe the analog service rule is **no** longer necessary, and continuation of this requirement would undermine spectral efficiency and impose additional costs, especially on rural wireless carriers.

The Commission set the February **18, 2008** sunset date in 2002, after finding that the competitive state of mobile wireless service, nationwide coverage achieved by carriers and clear consumer demand obviated the need to maintain the analog requirement. As part of that decision, the Commission established a reasonable and achievable multi-year path toward the sunset of the analog requirement. Customers and carriers have had ample time to prepare for the transition and take action. During the past five **years**, wireless carriers have been **transitioning** their networks and customers in anticipation of the end of the analog requirement. Because of the expectation that the **sunset** would be implemented, wireless carriers have relatively few remaining analog customers, and the **cost** of continuing to operate an analog network for such few customers is, in many cases, substantial.

In addition, the continued provision of analog service prevents wireless carriers from using that spectrum more efficiently and effectively for wireless broadband services. One of the Commission's strategic goals is that "[a]ll Americans should have affordable access to robust and reliable broadband products and services." Permitting wireless carriers to reallocate spectrum currently **used** for analog service to the provision of broadband services will help the Commission achieve that goal.

Facilitating a more complete transition to digital service will pay dividends for public safety, as well. Digital phones give consumers access to state-of-the-art **E911** location capabilities, while old analog phones do not. Digital handsets also can offer customers better voice quality, longer battery life, and GPS-navigation capabilities. Analog phones **offer** none of these advantages.

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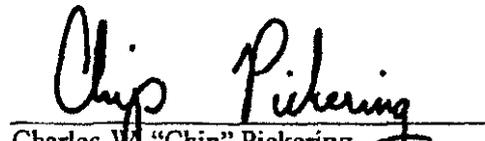
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
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We understand that some interested parties have asked the Commission to revisit its previous determination and extend the analog service requirement. We believe the existing transition has provided an adequate amount of time to prepare for the end of analog cellular service. A delay of the sunset of the analog requirement would impose unnecessary costs on consumers by depriving wireless carriers of the ability to maximize spectral efficiencies that could permit the roll-out of new, advanced services. We urge the Commission not to extend the current sunset date.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jay Inslee


Charles W. "Chip" Pickering

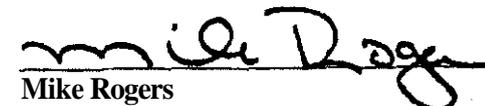

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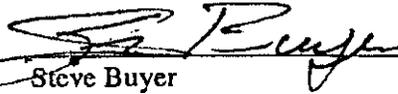

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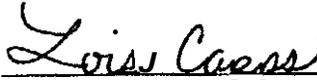
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin

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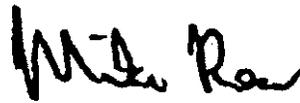

Steve Buyer


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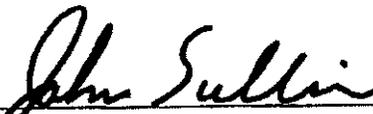

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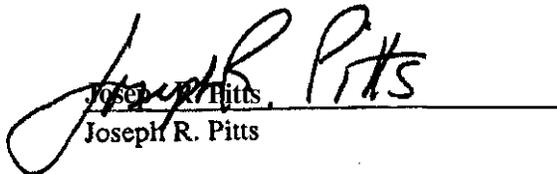

Mike Ross

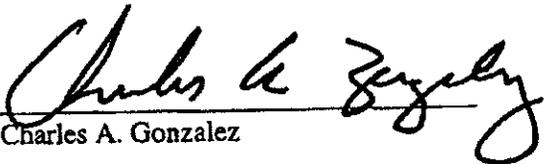

Lee Terry

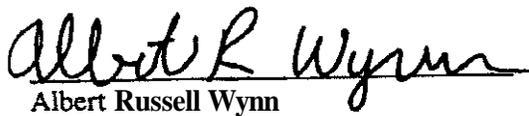

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