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REPRESENTATIVE W.A. (WINKIE) WILKINS
55TH DISTRICT - PERSON AND DURHAM COUNTIES

OFFICE: 1301 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096

PHONE: (919) 715-0850
(919) 733-2599 FAX

EMAIL: winkiew@ncleg.net

DISTRICT: 210 FAIR OAKS DRIVE
ROXBORO, NC 27574

PHONE: (336) 599-7336

May 17, 2007

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Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
FCC Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Universal Service Reform is a complex and difficult issue, but an issue that is critical to consumers in rural areas. Consumers in rural parts of North Carolina are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireless telephone service. Consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Without the continued needed support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas.

I have observed that momentum seems to be building at the Joint Board to attempt to resolve concerns regarding growth of the universal service fund by targeting reforms to competitive ETCs, primarily wireless ETCs cap on funding which they have now recommended. While such an approach may provide a quick-fix leading to the rapid elimination of fund growth, it would also result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers. Rural consumers want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, economic development, business and personal needs that are equally important to them as they are to urban consumers. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund.

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Chairman Kevin J. Martin

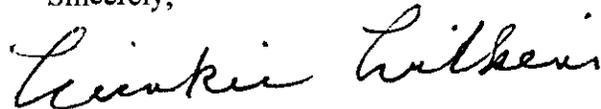
May 17, 2007

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I have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services in rural North Carolina, and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I ask you to find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability for how these funds are used and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much-needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high-cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers.

Sincerely,

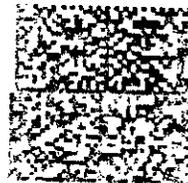
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Winkie Wilkins".

Winkie Wilkins

WAW:nb

General Assembly
Representatives
W.A. (WINKIE) WILKINS
Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

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