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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

CC Dockets 01-92, 96-45  
WC Dockets 06-122, 05-337

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposed order on intercarrier compensation and universal service that could dramatically increase the cost and decrease the availability of rural telecommunications and broadband in this part of North Carolina. What is worse, the FCC vote is scheduled for November 4 – Election Day 2008.

*The proposal apparently includes consumer phone rate increases ranging from several dollars to almost \$10 a month. This is very alarming given the challenges that many residents in Northeast North Carolina already face from a national credit crisis, increasing food prices, double-digit electric-bill increases and rising unemployment.*

*The proposal would undercut broadband investment by eliminating billions of dollars in funding that rural providers use today to build and maintain broadband infrastructure in rural America. By putting the goal of universal broadband availability further away for many communities, this order if passed as apparently proposed will lead to additional unemployment and market instability in the telecommunications industry.*

*Why no transparency, and why Election Day?* The actual order has not been made available for public comment, and the FCC vote is scheduled on Election Day. I urge you in the strongest possible terms not to proceed in this anti-democratic manner. The public has a right to expect it will be given a legitimate opportunity to comment before a final decision is made. Only then will we be able to debate merits and drawbacks of the proposal before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Wayne Harris  
Director

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