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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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October 28, 2008

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th 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 alter the cost and availability of rural telecommunications and broadband in my county, and that the FCC vote is scheduled for November 4th -- Election Day 2008.

I live in a rural area in Northampton County and am very much in need of rural telecommunications and broadband in my county.

Given the gravity of these issues, I find it very disturbing that the actual order has not been made available for public comment, and that the FCC vote is scheduled on Election Day when members of Congress and their constituents are rightly focused on their civic duties.

While I am aware that the Commission is under court order to address one small issue-the intercarrier rate for calls to dial-up Internet service providers. I want to urge you in the strongest possible terms not to proceed with the other issues in the proposed order before putting it out for public comment. In this way, we can all learn about both the merits and drawbacks of the proposal before it is too late.

Please **STOP THE VOTE** on this plan until the FCC has more time to consider its impacts on rural America.

Sincerely,

Betty A. Barnes

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Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Johnathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell