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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

October 31, 2008

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Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW, 8th Fl
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Martin:

As Governor of New Mexico, I am writing to express my serious concern about the intercarrier compensation order that the FCC may issue on November 4 that will raise the rates of residential telephone customers in New Mexico. While this would affect citizens across New Mexico, it would particularly have a serious impact on our most rural and needy markets. This could not come at a worse time, when our most needy citizens are struggling to deal with the impact of a worsening national economy.

While I understand the need for reform, we must ensure that it is done in a considered manner and that the impacts are fully understood. The process for vetting this potential reform has simply not been given enough time for all of the parties affected to provide their input to ensure that any decision made is in the best interests of all our citizens. We must also ensure that we fully understand the impact such a decision would have on our small local telecommunications companies as well as the larger major carriers. There is no reason to make a hasty decision that may not be in the best interests of everyone in New Mexico. I would urge you to postpone a decision on the intercarrier compensation order and seek additional input from those who will be directly affected. In addition, with an impending change in leadership for the country, it would seem appropriate that the next administration weigh in on how such an order might impact their plans to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in the country.

I urge FCC to take the advice of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and publish this proposal in the Federal Register, so that all the stakeholders can have a full, open debate and understand the consequences before any final decision is made.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/zw