



SUNSHINE PERIOD

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

October 27, 2008

2008 OCT 31 P 3: 54
FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 1 2008

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Jay Inslee
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable Brian Baird
The Honorable Doc Hastings

The Honorable Cathy Rogers
McMorris
The Honorable Norm Dicks
The Honorable Jim McDermott
The Honorable Dave Reichert
The Honorable Adam Smith

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are writing to express our serious concern about the rushed nature of the proposed rule change concerning intercarrier compensation and the universal service fund being circulated internally at the Federal Communications Commission.

The proposal is scheduled for a vote on November 4th yet the 167 page document has not been released to the public.

We strongly urge Congress to intervene and compel the FCC to delay this vote and allow time for an open and transparent process and public comments before it enacts such a sweeping proposal. We are requesting that you ask the FCC not to vote on this proposal until the appropriate committees in the Congress have the time to thoughtfully review all of the possible negative repercussions of this proposed order and the proposal has been publicly vetted.

The timing of this proposal could not be worse. Like the rest of the country, Washington State is experiencing what appears now to be the long-term effect of the nation's economic crisis. It is our understanding that the proposed FCC order would raise the rates of residential and business telephone customers, and could further destabilize the telecommunications industry in our most rural areas. We agree wholeheartedly with the letter written to the FCC by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners that states,

"Respectfully, in the wake of the credit crisis still reverberating throughout the U.S. economy, the FCC is rushing to resolve a \$13 billion problem based on insufficient information, and inadequate record, and an incredibly compressed deliberative period. There is no need to do so."

Washington Congressional Delegation

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The proposal poses too many unanswered questions that could have significant unintended consequences for consumers, industry and state regulators charged with protecting consumers.

We request that you ask the FCC not to vote for this order under these rushed circumstances. A new administration will be taking office in January. We believe it is best to let such far-reaching reforms be addressed as part of the new president's telecommunications agenda, and not allow this order to become a last-minute attempt at "reform" without allowing all parties to weigh in about the high risk outcomes for Washington's citizens.

Sincerely,



John McCoy
Chairman
House Technology, Energy &
Telecommunications Committee



Larry Crouse
Ranking Minority Member
House Technology, Energy &
Telecommunications Committee

cc: Kevin J. Martin, FCC Chairman ✓
Michael J. Copps, FCC Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, FCC Commissioner
Deborah-Taylor Tate, FCC Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, FCC Commissioner