



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

FILED/ACCEPTED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

February 23, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up
CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109**

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Recommendations recently made by the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up will have real impact on Arkansans across this state. While considerations are being made on how best to modernize and streamline the Universal Service Fund, it is important to note the vital role the Lifeline program plays in the lives of our constituents.

As the people of our state work to overcome unemployment and other financial obstacles, programs like Lifeline have been a tremendous resource. A recent study has shown that a majority of Lifeline participants found that by having a phone, their financial situation improved and they were able to maintain or secure employment. Equally important, the Lifeline program helps ensure that individuals, particularly seniors, have access to a phone in case of emergency.

Collectively, we are concerned that some proposals may hinder the Universal Service Fund's low-income support. Policies that would implement funding caps, impose user fees, or limit competition in this market would be detrimental to those who look to Lifeline for relief.

We commend efforts to eliminate waste and inefficiency and fully encourage the Commission to adopt recommendations that will make Lifeline more sustainable now and in the future. However, qualified families and individuals should continue to have access to this important program.

We thank you for considering our constituents needs during this process and

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we will continue to monitor how the FCC handles the Lifeline Assistance Program.

Sincerely,



Darrin Williams
State Representative
District 36



Fredrick J. Love
State Representative
District 36



Tracy Steele
State Representative
District 39



John C. Edwards
State Representative
District 38



Fred Allen
State Representative
District 33



Linda S. Tyler
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District 45



Kathy Webb
State Representative
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Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps, Commissioner Robert McDowell,
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker