

The Buffalo Common Council

MICHAEL J. LOCURTO
DELAWARE DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER
65 NIAGARA SQUARE, 1405 CITY HALL
BUFFALO, NY 14202-3318
PHONE: (716) 851-5155 • FAX: (716) 851-4553
E-mail: mlocurto@city-buffalo.com



CHIEF OF STAFF
BRADLEY K. HAMM
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
ALYSSA K. WEISS
February 28, 2011

CHAIR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEES
LEGISLATION
FINANCE
BUDGET

BOARDS
BURA

FILED/ACCEPTED

MAR - 1 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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,

The Lifeline Assistance Program provides an invaluable service to low-income constituents in my district and across the country. I am concerned that in looking for ways to minimize fraud, waste and abuse in the program, the Commission may be considering substantial cutbacks to the program.

Buffalo has the third highest poverty rate in the nation. Unemployment is a major problem, especially in the inner city. The ability of low-income citizens of this country, whether they be black, white or Hispanic, to have access to phone service is crucial to their climb up the economic ladder and out of poverty. The Lifeline program has been a critical factor in empowering people to go out and find work.

The Lifeline program is also invaluable keeping jobs. It is essential in times of emergency, and it is important to school-parent communications.

It is my concern that such a beneficial program to my district's residents remain accessible and free to those who qualify. I am worried that the Commission will adopt policies that cap funding for low-income support. The FCC should not mandate *any* monthly subscriber fees for Lifeline users, which would present an undue administrative burden on both carriers and consumers.

I am appreciate your government service and I am sure, like all of us, you want to do the right thing. There can be no doubt that the right thing would be to strengthen, not diminish, the Lifeline Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Michael J. LoCurto
Delaware District Council Member

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Working for Today - Planning for Tomorrow