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April 7, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to express my support for expanding the role of travelers information stations (TIS) beyond noncommercial information of interest to travelers to include the broadcast of Amber alerts, public health warnings, terror threat levels, weather reports, and other helpful information.

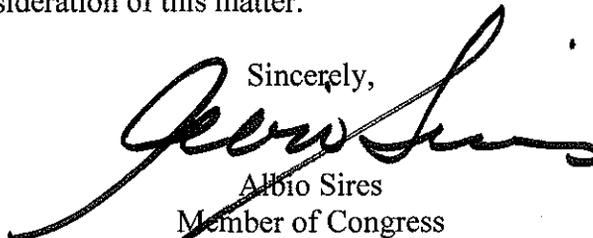
The 1,500 TIS operating nationwide have proven to be reliable resources for motorists seeking information and updates on traffic congestion and accidents. They are a valuable public asset and offer a key opportunity to transmit to the traveling public an even wider array of safety information that could further protect travelers' wellbeing and even lives. Unfortunately, current rules regarding these stations are severely limiting the public safety content allowed on the stations.

TIS are a particularly critical resource to my District, as it represents one the most highly travelled through urban areas in the country. In addition, my District has been said to contain the most dangerous stretch of two miles in the country due to the number of at-risk sites.

Recognizing their significance to my community, and the vital importance of additional safety threats such as Amber Alerts, National Weather Service announcements, and 9-1-1 outages, I strongly encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand its current TIS rules to better adapt to the overall safety needs of my constituents and citizens nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress