

Dear FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski,

Big corporations are now in the business of paying off non-profits and front groups to get them to mouth industry propaganda in letters to the FCC.

In a practice known as "astroturfing," groups claiming to represent the public receive considerable sums of money from corporations that have a stake in the outcome of FCC rule makings. In return, they send comments and letters to the FCC that repeat their benefactors' talking points, sometimes word-for-word.

As a result, the public's voice often gets drowned out by industry echo chambers. I strongly believe that ordinary citizens have the right to know which groups are taking money, and who's really behind their astroturfing.

I urge the FCC to pass rules that shed light on this practice, by requiring organizations to disclose conflicts of interest when submitting comments and other filings to the Commission.