



Cowlitz Indian Tribe

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FCC Mail Room

October 12, 2011

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC: 10-90
GN: 09-51
WC: 07-135
WC: 05-337
CC: 01-32
CC: 96-45
WC: 03-109

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to you with warm appreciation for the FCC's recent regulatory acknowledgement of the unique status and needs of Native communities and the special Trust responsibility of the Federal Government and the FCC to Native Nations.

During this crucial time of industry negotiations with the Commission on proposed changes to the Universal Service and the Inter-Carrier Compensation programs, and for transition to the Connect America Fund, we are urging you and the Commission to ensure that Native Nations are not lost in the policy deliberations and the upheaval of the regulatory changes.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, under the leadership of the 57+ member tribes, passed a resolution with 12 key policy principles (see attachment) that we ask the FCC to adhere to and guide future regulatory policy toward Native Nations.

Foremost in the FCC's regulatory policies should be the respect for the sovereignty of Native Nations and the honoring of the Federal trust responsibility to Native communities.

We also ask that all governmental policies affecting Native communities and all activities by eligible telecommunications carriers be conducted in participation with Tribal Nations, all ETC service be rendered with specific approval by the service target Tribe, and ongoing consultation be conducted on the quality of service in Native communities. We request that delegates from Indian country participate in the development of tribal telecommunications program that is controlled by the tribes and not superseded by or subject to the large carriers like Verizon, ATT, Sprint or CenturyLink.

We ask the FCC to ensure that funding and all Commission resources will be directed at Native Nations so that Native communities can attain parity of telecommunications service, connectivity and technology. We need to ensure that universal service funds are used to ensure that broadband services are available to underserved communities and bridge the digital divide that still exists in rural America.

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In line with our goals of sovereignty and self-sufficiency of Native Nations, the FCC should take extraordinary measures to make regulatory changes that do not inhibit the delivery of broadband service to Tribal lands or impede the ability of Native Nations to provide regulatory service to its own community.

With Sincere hope for a positive future for Native Nations,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Lyall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lyall".

William Lyall
Chairman, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Member Tribe Affiliated Tribes Northwest Indians (ATNI)