



Received & Inspected
OCT 11 2011
FCC Mail Room

Senator Joanne Verger
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October 5, 2011

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THE HONORABLE JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 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:

RE: Universal Service Fund

It has recently come to our attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposal to overhaul the Universal Service Fund in a way that would reallocate most of the available funds to home-based broadband delivery. While we support every effort to bring affordable and competitive Internet services to the people of Oregon, we are concerned that the current proposal ignores the growing need for mobile broadband access in our state and across our nation.

As we travel to our rural communities, it is plain to see that our citizens want and need improved mobile broadband to access information, conduct business and keep in touch with family. Our people should not be limited to just accessing the internet through their home computer; they need an always-on connection in their pockets they can take everywhere they work, live and play. Likewise, our police and first responders increasingly rely on mobile wireless networks to communicate with citizens and perform critical tasks such as conducting undercover operations.

The people who stand to lose the most under this proposal, however, are rural Oregonians and rural Americans. The USF has been a lifeline for rural Americans since 1996, but the proposal would deprive them of hundreds of millions of dollars for mobile broadband development that can improve public safety, bolster local economies and bring lifestyle benefits to smaller communities that residents of larger cities already enjoy.

Mobile broadband will also play a critical role in putting Americans to work at a time when we are in dire need of job creation solutions. A recent Deloitte report projects 15,000 new American jobs for every \$1 billion invested in mobile broadband.

For the benefit of Oregonians, we call on the FCC to seek USF reform proposals that have a sharper focus on wireless mobile broadband. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joanne Verger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Joanne Verger