



JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR

September 28, 2011

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

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

Received & Inspected

OCT - 5 2011

FCC Mail Room

It has recently come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposal to overhaul the Universal Service Fund in a way that would reallocate much of the available funds to home-based broadband delivery. While I support every effort to bring affordable and competitive Internet services to the people of Wisconsin, I am concerned that the current proposal ignores the growing need for mobile broadband access not only in Wisconsin but also throughout the nation.

Wisconsin's rural communities want and need improved mobile broadband to access information in order to conduct business and keep in touch with family. Wisconsinites should not be limited to only accessing the internet through their home computer; they need an accessible mobile 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.

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.

The USF has been a lifeline for rural Americans since 1996. I am concerned that 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.

Lastly, I am concerned that there has been limited opportunity for comments from concerned citizens. As the proposal under consideration stands to have major implications for communities, it is important to allow ample time for public comment and debate.

For the benefit of Wisconsin residents, I call on the FCC to seek USF reform proposals that have a sharper focus on wireless mobile broadband. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JULIE LASSA
State Senator
24th Senate District

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