

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2011

WCS  
USF  
1319

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to urge you to take immediate action on the broad industry consensus to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF). USF reform is past due and until recently seemed entirely out of reach. However, we are encouraged by the recent historic reform plan outlined by the majority of stakeholders in the communications industry. The Consensus Framework, filed by the rural associations and six price cap carriers on July 29<sup>th</sup>, gives you an unprecedented opportunity to preserve and strengthen the USF. We urge you to take it.

As the elected representatives of the least populated state in the country, we are keenly aware that any changes to the USF are felt disproportionately in Wyoming. After all, the USF was conceived and developed with rural areas like Wyoming in mind. Unfortunately, the plan put forward by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reform USF fell short and was met with near unanimous opposition by providers in our state.

The industry consensus plan offers you a way to advance a reform agenda that updates the USF to conform to the new demands of a broadband age, brings the USF back to fiscal sustainability, and better targets areas with legitimate need. All this you can achieve with significant industry buy-in – a crucial ingredient to the success of any reform plan – so long as the FCC does not attempt to upset the delicate consensus of the proposed plan.

The future success of USF is critical to ensuring that Wyoming is not left behind in an increasingly broadband dependent world. While this plan may not be perfect, opportunities like this do not materialize often. We sincerely hope you will seize it.

Sincerely,

*Michael B. Enzi*

Michael B. Enzi  
U.S. Senator

*John Barrasso*

John Barrasso, M.D.  
U.S. Senator

*Cynthia M. Lummis*

Cynthia M. Lummis  
U.S. Representative

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
United States Senate  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
113 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lummis:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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