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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2402

October 3, 2011

**1395**

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing regarding the Federal Communication Commission's efforts to modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF). I support efforts to update the Universal Service Fund (USF) for the broadband age. It no longer makes sense for the USF to subsidize voice service when broadband is the critical communications infrastructure of today.

As you reform the Fund, it is important that the FCC takes into account the needs of area such as the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. My constituents have benefited from the USF's support for voice service, but the current system has failed to fully deliver the promise of modern networks capable of delivering high speed broadband. The Commission's first priority should be delivering broadband quickly--by whatever technology is the most efficient--to all households without access to an adequate level of broadband. The FCC should demand accountability from USF providers and it should require providers to compete for a USF subsidy. Requiring companies to compete for the subsidy would lead to better services and faster build out for my communities that lack adequate broadband today. Finally, the Commission must put consumers first, not companies, because it is consumers who pay for this program.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns and encourage you to expeditiously move forward with reforming the Universal Service Fund program accordingly.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2466 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

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 "J. Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure