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October 14, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room: 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

*WCB
USF/ICC
14/14*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am contacting you to express my concerns with some of the components included in the ABC Plan for Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) and Universal Service Fund (USF) changes developed by the US Telecommunications Association. In particular, I am opposed to the additional burdens being placed on consumers in these tough economic times.

Although I fully support the stated goals of the Commission's proposed Rulemaking on ICC and USF reform, especially the goal of improved access to and affordability of broadband adoption, it is clear that there has been inequitable broadband access in rural and low-income urban communities nationwide. Additionally, in areas where broadband access is available, it is simply not affordable in many cases.

I strongly urge you to refrain from any increases in Subscriber Line Charges (SLCs) for wireline or wireless customers because it would create a financial burden to consumers, particularly in low-income families and communities of color. A SLC increase would give carriers billions of consumers' hard-earned dollars without providing anything tangible in return.

Again, I respectfully recommend you to oppose any increases in Subscriber Line Charges and work toward reform without increasing the burden on low-income American consumers. Thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

C: Commissioners Michael Copps, Robert McDowell, Mignon Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Donald M. Payne
U.S. House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Payne:

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 21st 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". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure