

## Steve Andrews

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**From:** Peggy Umphres Moffett [peggy.moffett@zapatacountyedc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** Herman Roark  
**Cc:** Steve Andrews; Curtis Hunt; donald.kirchhoff@border2border.com; Debbie Fisher; Steve Shavers  
**Subject:** Border to Border Communications Capaital Investment in Zapata County  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image004.png  
  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Roark,

I am reaching out to you in hopes of assisting Border To Border Communications, Inc. as its seeks relief from FCC rulings that threaten its continuation of vital telecommunication services to the businesses and citizens of Zapata County.

I appreciate, truly, Border To Border Communications' capital investment in the county and support that you have given in the past and hope that you continue. These types of investments are catalyst to diversify the economy and eliminate the disparities in opportunity for the access to the Internet, information and educational/business opportunities. I see the effects of these types of investments every day, and I could not be more proud and satisfied.

Now, I extend the Zapata Economic Development Corporation's support to your efforts and application/waiver for reconsideration of the current FUSF Reform Rules to the FCC. It seems like such a small offer from my perspective, and I treat this offer of support with the care and passion that I would only do to something of extreme importance. That is because economic and community development have revolutionized who I am and also empowered the me to be an effective leader in my home town.

The ZapataEDC has deemed it vital to our communities competitive and economic success that we deploy resources and implement programs that retain and expand business, attract new investment, promote community achievement, and eliminate hard and soft infrastructure constraints. Zapata County has been plagued with an inability to provide proper infrastructure, a competitive workforce, and enhancements to bring it into parity with other areas in the nation, resulting in a lack of new industry locations and low rates of expansion for existing industry. Recognizing this, the Zapata Economic Development Corporation applied for assistance from the US Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration, and was awarded a second grant to create and implement a strategic agenda to build capacity and compete for better jobs and greater levels of investment.

I hope that you will see the value in working together and in collaboration with local, state and federal partners in an effort such as this. May God bless you, and may your business bring happiness and success to the lives of millions.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Umphres Moffett  
President & CEO



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
RYAN GUILLEN

*\*This support letter was mailed to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski from Rep. Guillen's Capitol Office on June 19, 2012. Please feel free to call (512) 463-0416 if the Representative can be of any further assistance.\**

June 19, 2012

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

Chairman Genachowski,

It has recently been brought to my attention that the latest revision on behalf of the FCC regarding the Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) and the Inter-Carrier Compensation Rules will leave Border to Border, Inc. unable to provide services in Zapata, Texas. As the Representative for the area covered by this company, Zapata County, I urge you to reconsider your allocation of funds. It is important that you know more about Border to Border's mission; this unique company provides a distinctive communication service to its customers, predominantly over an all fiber optic network. They also deliver back-haul service for numerous cellular companies and on occasion assist Homeland Security.

However, the most important services provided by them are their emergency 911 and broadband assistance to residents and businesses in rural Zapata County, Texas. If Border to Border were to shut-down, this would mean that my constituents would not be able to seek help in case of an emergency and that their everyday communications -something they now rely on- would be hindered severely. Border to Border is currently repaying a loan to the Rural Utility Service (RUS), in the approximate amount of \$4,021,400. As a result of the FUSF/ICC reforms being enacted by the FCC, they will be forced to discontinue their services to my constituents and will be unable to repay their RUS loans.

Without these indispensable resources, the safety of my constituents will be at risk. It would be a dreadful thing to deprive the families of ranchers and farmers of South Texas of any means of communication, especially when they take part of a market that relies on constant over-the-phone interaction to meet the expectations of their line of work. Lack of communication will affect them financially, and if there is an emergency at hand, how will they receive help? These hard working Americans, who are the backbone of our economy, will be hurt by this action.

Yours in Public Service,

  
Ryan Guillen  
Texas State Representative

## RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BORDER TO BORDER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
APPLICATION FOR A WAIVER OF THE FEDERAL UTILITIES SERVICE FUND RULES  
THROUGH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONER FOR CONTINUATION OF  
AND TELECOMMUNICATION AND BROADBAND SERVICES TO RURAL ZAPATA COUNTY  
BUSINESS AND RESIDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County Texas is dedicated to improving the quality of life and economic opportunities of its residents through support of initiatives that support the positive economic development of Zapata County; and

**WHEREAS**, Zapata County, while blessed with abundant natural resources, bountiful and beautiful South Texas land and landscapes, and an excellent public school system, it must continue to utilize and protect all available economic development tools such as a modern telecommunications and broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Zapata County is currently experiencing a 20% decrease in the County's assessed valuation, and 37% of the County's population is below the national poverty level; there is an urgent need to enhance and diversify the local economy by attracting and retaining jobs and capital investment in Zapata County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Utilities Commission of Texas awarded a certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Border To Border Communications, Inc. on August 1, 1991, authorizing the company to provide telecommunications service to the rural resident and businesses of Zapata County, an area considered by the commission as an un-served area. Border To Border Communications, Inc. is currently the service provider and carrier of last resort for Zapata County; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of modern telecommunications and broadband service to the deserving citizens and businesses of rural Zapata County is made possible through the reinvestment of company general operating funds and support received from the Federal Universal Service Fund, Without this funding, the residents of rural Zapata County would not have access to dependable telecommunication and broadband services essential to their physical, economic, and educational well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, Border To Border Communications, Inc. provides voice, emergency 911, and broadband services to residents and business in rural Zapata County predominately over an all fiber optic network. Border to Border Communications, Inc. also provides back-haul service to U.S. Home Land Security; and

WHEREAS, Border To Border Communications' non cellular infrastructure is essential in providing reliable communication to rural Zapata County because there is no dependable cellular service in Zapata County, even though the National Broadband Service map indicates that all of Zapata County has cellular service, without Border To Border Communications, rural Zapata County will lose dependable communication; and

WHEREAS, Border To Border Communications, Inc. is in the process of filing a costly waiver for reconsideration of the current Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) reform rules. If the FUSF Reform Rules are implemented, Border To Border Communications, Inc. will be forced out of business on January 1, 2013 adversely impacting Zapata County residents and businesses, stripping them of voice, emergency 911, and broadband services; and

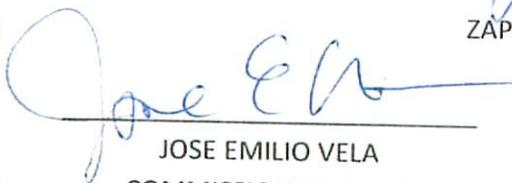
WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of the County of Zapata, Texas is the governing body of Zapata County, Texas; and

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Commissioners Court of Zapata County supports the Border To Border Communication, Inc. application for waiver of the current Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) Reform Rules which will allow the continuation of essential telecommunication and broadband services to rural Zapata County.

APPROVED AND ENTERED THE 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2012



JOSEPH RATHMELL  
ZAPATA COUNTY JUDGE



JOSE EMILIO VELA  
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 1



EDDIE MARTINEZ  
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 3

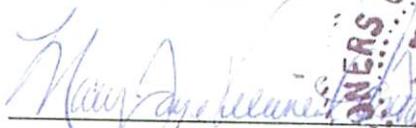


GABRIEL VILLARREAL  
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2



NORBERTO GARZA  
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4

ATTESTED BY:



MARY JANE VILLARREAL BONGAN  
COUNTY CLERK

