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July 1, 2013

Acting Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 11-42, *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization***

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel, and Commissioner Pai:

On June 27, 2013, Free Press Action Fund, along with a diverse coalition of 35 public interest, civil rights, and community-based organizations, submitted the attached letter to Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill to highlight the importance of the Lifeline program.

The organizations – which include AARP, the Center for Media Justice, Consumers Union, SEIU Missouri State Council, the National Hispanic Media Coalition and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates – responded to Senator McCaskill’s letter of June 11 suggesting that the Commission defund Lifeline to fund the ConnectED initiative. Our response supported bringing next-generation connectivity to schools and libraries, but not by depriving low-income communities of essential communications services. Lifeline and E-Rate are “complementary pathways to bringing connectivity to our country, and we believe that both are necessary if we are to eradicate the digital divide” in our country. Free Press urges the Commission to continue improving and reforming the Lifeline program while also exploring how to achieve the goals outlined in the ConnectED initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer V. Yeh

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