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<http://www.house.gov/pallone>

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

July 23, 2014

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Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

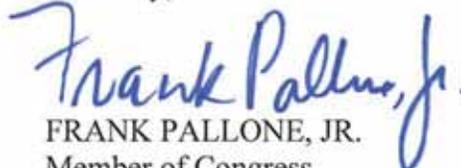
I am writing to commend the Commission for its work to date on its important proposed rule allowing interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers to obtain direct access to telephone numbers.

During the course of the rulemaking on direct access, the Commission has developed an extensive record that includes input from stakeholders and interested parties. While I understand that some parties expressed concerns, the multitude of evidence in the record points to the substantial public interest benefits associated with granting VoIP providers direct access to numbering resources. In addition, the Commission conducted a six-month trial of direct access to telephone numbers by certain interconnected VoIP providers to determine if direct access presented any technical issues. The Wireline Competition Bureau's report on the trial concluded that direct access did not present any technical issues.

The Commission has previously expressed the importance of moving quickly to advance the IP transition and the proposed rule allowing interconnected VoIP providers to obtain direct access to telephone numbers is part of that effort. Given the substantial record that the Commission has developed on direct access including a successful trial, the Commission should be well positioned to move quickly on this important piece of the IP transition.

I appreciate the Commission's efforts to date and urge the Commission to drive this rulemaking to an expeditious conclusion.

Sincerely,


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

CC: Jonathan Sallet, General Counsel
Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor - Wireline, Public Safety, and Homeland Security



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter commending the Commission's work on allowing interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (iVoIP) providers to obtain telephone numbers directly from the number administrators, rather than through a carrier partner, and urging the Commission to drive this rulemaking to an expeditious conclusion. Your views are very important to the process and will be included in the record.

The Commission has taken significant steps to develop a full record in this proceeding. On April 18, 2013, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Order, and Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* seeking comment on the proposal to allow iVoIP providers direct access to telephone numbers. The comment period for the *NPRM* ended on August 18, 2013.

In addition to collecting input from stakeholders and interested parties through public comment, the Commission conducted a six-month trial to determine the technical feasibility of granting direct access to iVoIP providers. The trial involved five entities and began on June 17, 2013. The Wireline Competition Bureau released a Report on the results of the trial to the public on January 31, 2014, and the public was able to comment on the Trial Report until March 3, 2014. The record collected on both the *NPRM/NOI* and the Trial Report is now being carefully reviewed, and the Commission continues to work on this proceeding as expeditiously as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler