

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to you regarding the Commission's plans to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the Intercarrier Compensation system (ICC). We agree that this current structure is unsustainable and reform is badly needed to ensure our rural areas continue to receive reasonably comparable service. We applaud your desire to streamline the USF and ICC, but as you do so, we strongly urge you to keep rural America in mind. Thoughtful reform must consider the impact of possible changes on rural communities and allow ample time for all telephone companies to adapt to new regulations.

One matter of particular importance to rural telephone carriers involves the issue of phantom traffic. Phantom traffic prevents routing information from reaching rural telephone companies, leaving them unable to bill the appropriate parties. Requiring that companies transmit and forward call detail information will help ensure that rural telephone carriers are fairly compensated for the services they provide.

USF and ICC reform is a monumental task, and as you move forward, we urge you to consider the impact on rural communities. Your attention to issues affecting these areas will ensure that as we transition toward a more sustainable system, rural America will not be left behind.


Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Jamie Herrera Buetler
Member of Congress



Norman D. Dicks
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



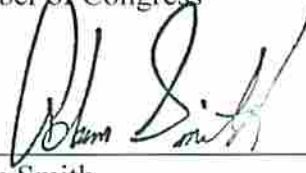
Raúl R. Labrador
Member of Congress



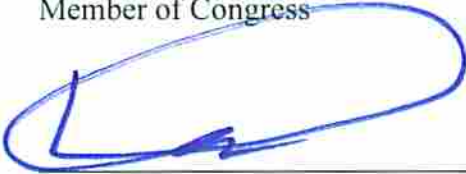
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

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