



August 2, 2010

Tom Udall  
New Mexico Senator  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

I am writing to ask for your help in regards to the FCC's recently released National Broadband Plan (NBP). Yucca Telecom is a rural telephone company that serves over 1,600 access lines in eight (8) exchanges in eastern New Mexico. In 2011 we will have been in business 60 years and our customers rely on the advanced telecommunication and broadband services we provide.

Yucca Telecom has relied upon and operated under the policies of the FCC with regards to the current support mechanisms of USF, Intercarrier Compensation, High Cost Support and the NECA pool. We have incurred debts on operating loans to provide services to our customers under the promise we would receive the necessary support in order to meet our debt requirements and continue to provide advanced services to our customers.

The NBP proposes to move to the newly created Connect America Fund (CAF) and there is no transition method allowed for Yucca to continue to receive support from current methods in order to pay the loans back. This could leave Yucca as well as many other rural carriers unable to operate and provide the services we have done for these many years.

Secondly, the NBP has the very ambitious goal of providing 100 Mbps to 100 million homes in ten years. I appreciate their good intentions but the plan only promises to support 4 Mbps to the rural customers which will continue the digital divide they are supposedly trying to eliminate.

We need your voice in Washington to advocate for the rural carriers. We ask that you advocate for faster broadband speeds, equal to the urban dwellers, and we ask that you advocate for a fair and equitable method of support that will enable the rural carriers to continue to provide advanced broadband services to our customers and meet debt requirements. Without it, these rural customers will be left at a disadvantage. We are not just asking for your blind support as we are compiling data that we will provide to you in the near future that supports our position.

We appreciate your efforts. We also extend an invitation to you to visit our company headquarters in Portales, NM to tour our facilities, meet our employees, board members and community leaders so you can see first hand what we do.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Scott Arnold  
General Manager

*Yucca Telecom is a DBA for Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.*