



September 23, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to you during a critical review period as you work to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF). As technology, management, and business practices change, the programs concerning these issues within the federal government must also be reformed. We are encouraged by the recent discussions with Idaho stakeholders. You have already received a careful review process and feedback that gives you and the FCC an opportunity to reform and update the USF and its core mission mandate and goals.

As representatives of a rural state, our delegation has a strong interest in ensuring the viability of an efficient and cost-effective USF. We have noted that the telecommunication industry has been working closely with the FCC and has submitted consensus ideas for meaningful reform in which to meet the new demands of a broadband age. These reforms call for the USF to be brought back to fiscal sustainability and better serve rural target areas that have legitimate needs. We applaud those efforts.


The future success of extending robust broadband service to rural areas of the United States, like Idaho, rests with resources like the USF. As stated as one of its mission goals, the USF is to: "Advance the availability of such services to all consumers, including those in low income, rural, insular, and high cost areas at rates that are reasonably comparable to those charged in urban areas." We look forward to continuing this important work together as the FCC strives to fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

  
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Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senator

  
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James Risch  
U.S. Senator

  
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Mike Simpson  
U.S. Representative

  
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Raul Labrador  
U.S. Representative