

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

VICE CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Congress of the United States
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April 4, 2011

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

*WCB
West Coast
4/19*

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

In the fast-moving world that we live in, individuals, families, small businesses, organizations, corporations, and government entities all rely on instantaneous communication. I applaud the Commission's efforts over the years to ensure that every American is connected first by phone, and now by broadband. This infrastructure is not just critical, but necessary to our Nation's economy.

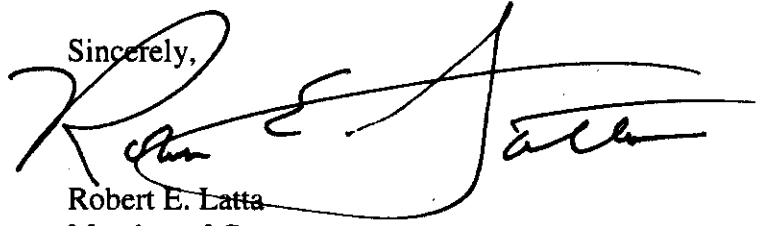
I represent the largest agricultural district in Ohio, which spans 16 counties in northern Ohio and is serviced by 18 rural telecommunications companies. Many of these rural local exchange carriers (LECs) in my district are having recurring problems with calls not being completed – incoming long distance calls to residential and business customers are not going through. The problem is not limited to LECs in my district though; it is a growing issue across the state and Midwest. However, incomplete calls can be difficult to identify, as oftentimes it is impossible to know that a call was missed. Called customers may not be aware of in-bound call problems absent notification by the calling party, and LECs may not be aware of in-bound call problems absent notification by called customers. Thus, the problem could be even more widespread.

I am writing to make you and your fellow FCC commissioners aware of this issue. Furthermore, I am asking that you investigate the problem of incoming calls being terminated in rural areas and if unjust and unreasonable discrimination is occurring, if there is a violation of common carrier requirements, or if calls are being blocked.

Businesses depend on the quality and completion of every single phone call. During this economic downturn, many small businesses operate on a small margin, and one incomplete call that results in a business transaction not being made, can be critical. Furthermore, incomplete calls adversely affect families and public safety, and can even be life-threatening. Your attention to this matter is critical to the telecommunications infrastructure in rural Ohio. I would like to meet with you, or your staff, to discuss the problem and how we can ensure that rural areas have

access to a reliable network. Please follow-up with either me or my staff member, Bethany Peck, at (202) 225-6405. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/bap