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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

July 22, 2009

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Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

First, allow me to congratulate you on your recent appointment and confirmation as the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I am writing today on a matter of significant importance to a number of my constituents.

As you know, our nation's broadcasters recently transitioned from robust analog broadcast signals to more efficient digital signals to clear the spectrum for additional private use and most importantly for the creation of a public safety interoperable communications network. One of the many technological challenges to this important transition was the difference in signal strength between analog and digital signals. I understand that analog signals are capable of transmitting over greater distances and through topographical obstacles better than the clearer digital signals.

Unfortunately, a number of my constituents have found that due to their surrounding geography and the lack of sufficient terrestrial repeaters for the new digital signals, they are unable to receive any "over the air" signals at all. These families have purchased and correctly installed the digital converter boxes, and in some cases installed the expensive new antennas. Ultimately, they have been told by staff in your Media Bureau and Customer Service Division that their only option is to purchase either cable or satellite television service that they cannot afford.

I am seeking help in finding an appropriate remedy for these New Jersey residents. I respectfully request that your office contact Jeanne Ashmore, my District Director, at my Flemington office regarding this matter.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important matter. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress