



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 6, 2009

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your August 27, 2009 letter concerning universal battery chargers for mobile devices. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss your concerns about the necessity for consumers to use a different charger for each new mobile device purchase during our meeting in your office and at the House oversight hearing.

As you stated, there are efforts underway to address your concerns. CTIA announced this past April that it is supporting a common format for wireless chargers and has agreed on use of the micro-USB connector. CTIA states that the aims of this initiative are not only to implement a single charger standard for new wireless devices, but also to reduce energy consumption by adherence to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star requirements for the reduction of standby power consumption by 50 percent. CTIA's target date is January 1, 2012. I am enclosing a copy of CTIA's announcement for your information.

We anticipate that implementation of the micro-USB connector may occur more rapidly than CTIA's target date. Some wireless devices already use a micro-USB connector, although they are not all harmonized yet in a way that allows use of the same charger. As you are aware, Europe is implementing the same connector, as well, reportedly as early as 2010. Since manufacturers generally seek to standardize the designs of their wireless phones for worldwide markets, we believe that they will have an incentive to implement the micro-USB connector in their U.S. products as quickly as possible. Perhaps as an indicator of this trend, we understand that manufacturers have agreed to implement the standardized micro-USB connector for most smart phones by January 2010.

Congressman Markey, I appreciate your leadership in this matter. The Commission will work with the wireless industry to encourage implementation of the new standard connector as expeditiously as possible, and we will monitor the industry's progress closely. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman

Enclosure