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COMMITTEES
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October 14, 2009

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

*USF High Cost PV JCO
1/17/09*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

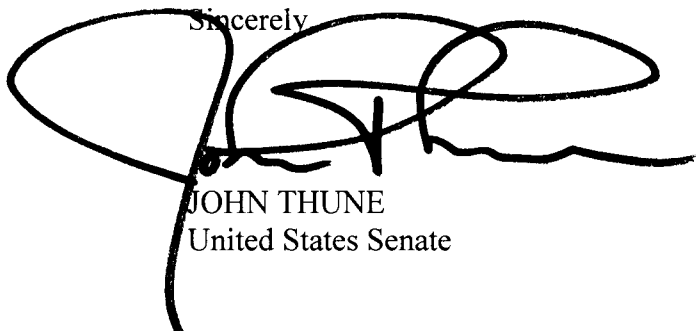
I write to congratulate you on your confirmation to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and to continue the important dialogue from your confirmation hearing regarding access to broadband services in rural areas.

As you know, both rural and non-rural carriers serve high-cost rural areas of the country, yet their Universal Service Fund (USF) distribution mechanisms are considerably different. The result of this difference in USF methodologies is that some rural carriers are ineligible for high-cost USF support under the historic investment model and unable to elect to receive support under the forward looking cost model.

Additionally, as the FCC considers issues such as identical support rule, reverse auctions, and expanding USF to include broadband services, I encourage you to consider the important role rural carriers play in providing high quality communications services throughout rural America. The telecommunications industry is rapidly evolving, and we cannot forget the critical contributions made by these companies in the most remote regions of the country.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation to the FCC, and I look forward to continue working with the FCC to improve the effectiveness of the USF.

Sincerely



JOHN THUNE
United States Senate