



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 3, 2010

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the contribution methodology for the universal service fund (USF). Specifically, you urge the Commission to take immediate action to fix the method for contributing to the USF in a manner that creates equity and sustains the availability of funding.

The USF is among the most powerful tools for ensuring the availability of affordable voice service and enabling the widespread deployment of high-speed broadband networks throughout the country. The Commission has a tough job ahead of it to make sure that the USF accomplishes the mandate set out by Congress of being specific, predictable, and sufficient, while sustainable and strong enough to support the advanced technologies that will keep the United States competitive in the global economy. Central to this enterprise is the tenet that telecommunications providers should contribute to the fund on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis.

The Commission is actively considering comprehensive reform of the USF, including examining the methodology for assessing contributions. The Commission has released a series of *Public Notices* seeking comment on various aspects of the USF as part of its proceeding to develop a national broadband plan. Please be assured that the Commission will consider carefully innovative methods for equitably assessing contributions to the USF that ensure its sustainability.

I appreciate your sharing your thoughts with me on this critically important issue. I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski