



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 10, 2010

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

Thank you for your letter regarding data roaming, urging the Commission to act promptly on this issue. I agree that the availability of roaming services to rural communities and access to wireless data service is essential to our economy, public safety, and national security.

On April 21, 2010, the Commission released an *Order on Reconsideration and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that will increase American consumers' access to mobile voice service, wherever and whenever they choose. The *Order on Reconsideration* modifies the automatic roaming obligation that the Commission adopted for voice and related services in 2007, by eliminating the home roaming exclusion. The *Order* creates a framework for voice roaming that will encourage carriers of all sizes to reach reasonable commercial agreements with each other, while also encouraging these carriers to continue investing in the coverage and capacity of existing voice networks.

Consistent with the recommendation of the National Broadband Plan, this action also opens a broad inquiry into the critical issue of data roaming. In the *Second Further Notice*, we examine whether to extend roaming obligations to data services that are provided without interconnection to the public switched network – including mobile broadband services. I have often expressed a belief that there are few areas in communications that present greater promise for our country than mobile – in terms of driving our economy and delivering broad opportunity for all Americans – and our goal must be for America to lead the world in mobile. To promote this goal, we must ensure that American consumers have access to competitive broadband data communications services, and that the United States has the fastest and most extensive mobile networks in the world. This action helps us take the first important steps toward that objective.

I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. We have placed a copy of your letter in the record for this proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 10, 2010

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

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