

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to reiterate the requests that some of us have made individually to you that the Commission establish an insular-specific universal service funding mechanism to ensure that the residents of Puerto Rico have access to affordable telecommunications services. The Commission committed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that it will act by April 16, 2010 on its pending Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 05-205, which tentatively concluded to adopt this funding mechanism to fulfill a 1996 congressional mandate. In light of the impending deadline, we ask you to act now to establish this long-awaited funding mechanism or, at a minimum, agree to a 30-day extension to this deadline so that the Commission can more fully consider this request.

Establishment of an insular-specific universal service funding mechanism is critically important to Puerto Rico. The Island has lower telephone and broadband penetration rates than any U.S. state. These disheartening facts are the result of the very high cost of providing telecommunications services in Puerto Rico and the Island's very low per capita income. Despite the great need for increased federal support, the Commission has failed for 14 years to act on a congressional mandate to establish sufficient funding that would improve access to telephone and broadband for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

We know that you share our belief that residents of Puerto Rico are entitled to enjoy the same basic telecommunications services as the rest of the United States. We also understand that the Commission is focused on expanding broadband access across the United States through its National Broadband Plan. We would ask that Puerto Rico be fully and equitably included in this and future FCC programs from the start.

We understand that the Commission has been very busy and we would encourage you to take the time you need to make the correct decision on this issue, which is of such importance to the people of Puerto Rico. Thank you for your prompt consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress