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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3307

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*WCB
NBP
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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Thank you for presenting to Congress the National Broadband Plan (NBP). I write today to share some concerns about the impact the NBP would have on rural areas, including the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina.

While the NBP includes the commendable goal of providing broadband service to all Americans, by setting the universalization target at 4 Mbps, while promoting 100 Mbps for 100 million households, the plan appears to abandon our country's long-standing commitment to providing comparable telecommunication services to all Americans. Without state-of-the-art broadband, rural communities that increasingly depend on broadband to compete, collaborate, and communicate in the modern world will be significantly disadvantaged. The economic development of these rural communities is increasingly dependent on telecommunication providers ability to provide the modern services needed to meet the commerce, public safety, education, and energy requirements of the 21st economy.

As you know, comprehensive reform of telecommunications policy is needed to modernize support for broadband networks and communication services of the future. However, we must not abandon successful cost recovery mechanisms, such as intercarrier compensation and the Universal Service Fund, which have been instrumental in reaching even the most remote communities with telecommunication services, without addressing the disruption the NBP's modernization proposals would have on carriers that have invested and been successful in providing modern telecommunication services in rural areas based on these predicable support mechanisms.

In today's information economy, many jobs can be performed from anywhere – so long as the worker has access to the same kind of broadband infrastructure that is available in non-rural areas. The economic future of rural America and southeast North Carolina is at stake. Therefore, I urge you to modify the NBP's recommendations so businesses and workers can embrace rural areas and to ensure all Americans benefit from the global leadership position we can achieve with this plan. I look forward to hearing from you regarding these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

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