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June 1, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:


On May 28, 2010, Representative Sam Graves and Representative Betsy Markey sent a letter to your office signed by 38 Members of Congress regarding the recently submitted *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan*. I write today to associate myself with the sentiment of my rural colleagues regarding the National Broadband Plan (NBP) as outlined in that letter.

As you likely know, Wyoming is the least populated state in the country. It is also the tenth largest by land mass. That kind of population density presents unique and exceedingly difficult challenges for meeting Wyoming's communications needs. At a time when the United States was just beginning to realize the promise of voice service, it could have been the country's policy to simply leave difficult areas like Wyoming behind. Instead, we collectively decided that it would be in our national interest to bring every area along. The policy of universal service and later the Universal Service Fund (USF) were instrumental in reaching even the most rural communities in my state with voice service.

Like universal voice was to its time, the importance of broadband to our national economy cannot be understated. I, like my colleagues who have signed the attached letter, am concerned that the NBP fails to recognize how desperately rural economies need adequate broadband for everyday commerce, telemedicine, distance learning and so much more. Unfortunately, it appears the NBP will only widen the digital divide.

I urge you to modify the NBP recommendations to consider the needs of Wyoming and rural America. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress

WCB
NBP

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