

AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SMALL BUSINESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0603

February 16, 2011

**0222**

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are writing regarding the two orphan counties in Colorado, Montezuma and La Plata. These two counties are currently denied the ability to obtain in-state broadcasts due to the existing inflexibility and structure of the Designated Market Areas (DMA). As the FCC commences its investigation on the subject of orphan counties, we write to express our commitment to secure the citizens of these counties the ability to view local and state programming including, but not limited to, news, weather and public emergency notifications. This issue is critical to the residents of these counties, as their inability to receive local and state broadcasts has rendered them isolated from their native state.

During the last three years, this bipartisan matter has garnered both the support of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and the State of Colorado. In 2008 and 2010, the Colorado State Legislature passed resolutions urging the FCC and the federal government to address the longstanding issue of orphan counties in Colorado. Now more than ever, we are dedicated to working with you and others to find a reasonable solution that provides the residents of these two counties access to Colorado programming in addition to the programming they are already receiving.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to consider these comments. Given the seriousness of this issue, it is our hope the FCC will address this matter in an expeditious and pragmatic manner.

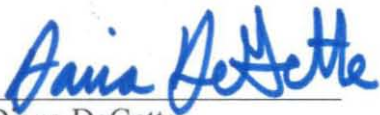
Sincerely,



Mark Udall  
United States Senator



Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



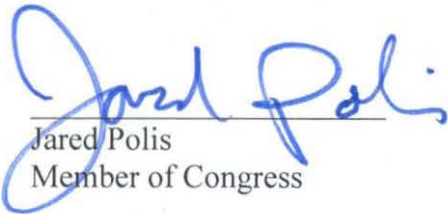
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress