

AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SMALL BUSINESS

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

February 16, 2011

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

**0223**

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

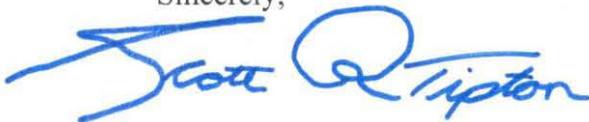
I am writing to provide support for my constituents in Southwest Colorado, specifically Montezuma and La Plata counties. These two "orphan" counties are currently denied the ability to obtain in-state broadcasts due to the existing inflexibility and structure of the Designated Market Areas (DMA). As a resident of Montezuma, I can personally attest to the frustration caused by the inability of the majority of the residents to receive local and State programming.

As the FCC commences its investigation on the subject of orphan counties, I write to confirm my commitment to secure my constituents residing in 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 me, as the inability of my constituents to receive local and state broadcasts has rendered them isolated from their native state.

This is a bipartisan matter that has garnered both the support of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and the State of Colorado. In 2008 and 2010, the Colorado State Legislature passed a resolution urging the FCC and the Federal government to address the longstanding issue of orphan counties in Colorado. As a former state legislator, I supported the resolution urging both the FCC and the Federal Government to address this issue. Now more than ever, we must work together 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.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider my comments and this important issue. It is my hope the FCC will address this matter in expeditious and pragmatic manner.

Sincerely,



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress