

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2011

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

WCB  
USF  
Reg. Cost  
395

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

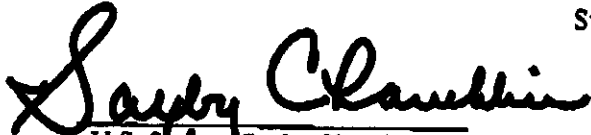
We write today to bring to your attention to an issue of great importance to our constituents and Georgia's economy.


As you may know, Allied Wireless Communications Corporation (Allied) acquired substantial existing rural wireless operations in the State of Georgia as part of the government's mandated divestiture as a condition for approval of the merger between Verizon and Alltel. In order to build, maintain and expand operations, these markets have historically received Universal Service Fund (USF) support identified for precisely this purpose in these types of markets. In fact, the Georgia markets acquired or managed by Allied received approximately \$15 million in 2009, and almost \$6 million in 2010 (before the transaction closed). Allied currently employs over 200 people, operates 16 retail stores and has over 60 independent locations serving over 300,000 subscribers primarily in rural areas of our state. This activity has been greatly enhanced through the assistance of the USF program.

Unfortunately, Allied's USF support for these operations was terminated when the transaction closed in April 2010 because of a technicality in the way the transaction was structured, forcing the company to forego millions of dollars of USF monies until it could re-apply for USF support in Georgia. Allied promptly filed applications with the Georgia Public Service Commission to reinstate this crucial USF support. The Georgia Public Service Commission quickly ruled in September 2010 that rural customers in the state of Georgia would be served best if Allied's USF support was restored as of the date the transaction closed and Allied, as the successor company to Alltel in these designated Georgia markets, could access the same funds that otherwise would have gone to Alltel. In light of these unprecedented circumstances, the company has sought a waiver of FCC rules in order to receive the funds to which the State of Georgia says they are entitled.

We request that you carefully review Allied's waiver application and consider the set of events, the limited nature of Allied's request, the rural impact on our state, and the decision of the Georgia Public Service Commission as you reach your decision.

Sincerely,

  
U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss

  
U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson

  
U.S. Representative Jack Kingston

  
U.S. Representative Lynn Westmoreland

  
U.S. Representative Austin Scott