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April 14, 2011

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

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USF-Genl
ICC
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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continues its work to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation regime, the FCC is appropriately pursuing policies designed to reduce waste and increase accountability for ratepayers. At the same time, it is important that the Commission recognizes the continued need for consumer-driven services, such as the range of legitimate toll conferencing options.

As you know, millions of non-profit organizations, small businesses, educational institutions, and consumers rely on such services daily. There should be regulatory solutions that enable a level playing field for all telecommunications carriers and service providers in urban and rural areas while also eliminating the incentives for abuse. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking properly outlines the issues surrounding access stimulation, and I encourage the FCC to closely examine solutions that address pricing Intercarrier Compensation rates to ensure that valuable, legitimate consumer services are preserved and private investment in underserved areas continues.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. I look forward to working with you to resolve this issue in a way that protects consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
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