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April 4, 2011



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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing with regard to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) efforts to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation regime.

This recently announced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to address these issues is a step in the right direction, especially as you attempt to introduce reforms that result in less waste and more accountability for ratepayer dollars, and we applaud your leadership in undertaking necessary reform.

One area we would like to highlight is the continued need for access to consumer-driven services, such as the range of toll conferencing options. As you know, millions of consumers, small businesses, educational institutions, and other non-profit organizations rely on these services daily.

We are confident there are solutions that would provide a level playing field for all telecommunications carriers and service providers in urban and rural areas, while eliminating the incentives for abuse. While NPRM properly outlines the issues surrounding access simulation, we urge the FCC to closely examine solutions that address pricing Intercarrier Compensation rates at lower rates for higher call volumes so as to preserve such valuable consumer services and to continue to encourage investment in underserved areas.

Again, thank you for your work on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to resolve this issue in a way that protects all American consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

  
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress

c: FCC Commissioners

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