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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

0897

July 18, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to urge you to immediately begin a proceeding to make sure all consumers have access to mobile devices operating on the next-generation networks that use 700 MHz spectrum.

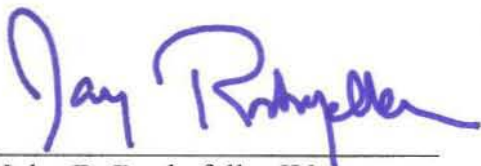
Without action, we are concerned that the wireless market may develop in ways that are contrary to the public interest. First, without interoperability across band classes, some consumers will not have access to the cutting-edge devices being developed to take advantage of the benefits of the next-generation 700 MHz networks. If these new devices work only on certain networks, consumers using other carriers may be saddled with less innovative devices.

Second, if these devices do not work across networks, consumers and public safety users who travel may not be able to roam on other networks and could be left stranded without service. Some first responders may be unable to use their wireless devices in emergencies if the devices are not interoperable with the available commercial networks.

We commend the Commission for beginning to tackle these issues through a recent staff workshop. But we have reached a pivotal point in the development of the 700 MHz networks, and the Commission should take additional action to protect consumers. We

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encourage you to identify the most suitable means to ensure devices being designed for the 700 MHz band can, as swiftly as possible and to the extent technically feasible, benefit all consumers.

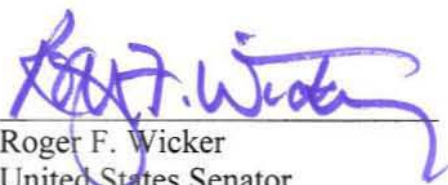


John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Mark P. Begich
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator