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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 29, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing regarding i-wireless, a pre-paid wireless service provider based in greater Cincinnati, OH. The products offered by i-wireless can be obtained at the retail locations of the Kroger Co., i-wireless's parent company. As you may know, Kroger is the sixth largest employer in the nation, with locations across the United States.

Recently, i-wireless has begun an effort to provide Lifeline service to consumers in Ohio and across the country. From my understanding, i-wireless submitted an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Compliance Plan to the Federal Communications Commission in July of 2010. As of this writing, over one year later, the i-wireless Compliance Plan remains pending.

The FCC staff raised some initial questions with respect to this filing. However, I understand that i-wireless has addressed these concerns and agreed to abide by any and all Commission requirements. I also understand that the FCC has previously approved similar Compliance Plans for other carriers, including carriers who are not headquartered in the United States.

As you know, many consumers no longer use landline telephones and rely on mobile phones to look for jobs, to keep track of family members, and to request emergency services. I am concerned that this regulatory delay is preventing i-wireless from offering competitive choice in the Lifeline market. In many instances, the only current option for customers is to obtain service from foreign carriers.

Not only is the FCC inaction on the i-wireless Compliance Plan hurting consumers, but the delay is also causing economic harm to i-wireless and the Kroger Company. As the United States attempts to emerge from a recession, this regulatory lag is serving as an impediment to employment growth and investment in Ohio and across the nation.

If my understanding of the facts is correct, I hope that the FCC will give its attention and approval to the i-wireless Compliance Plan. If incorrect, I would appreciate your sharing with me the reasons why the i-wireless Compliance Plan differs from those of previously-approved carriers.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown



Fax Cover Sheet

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From: Senator Sherrod Brown

Re: i-wireless ETZ Compliance Plan

No. of pages (including cover): 2
