

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2012

**1097**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commissions  
445 12th Street SW, Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am contacting you regarding clarification of the commercial restrictions of Non-Commercial Educational (NCE) Public Interest Obligation (PIO) channels.

I support the ability of NCE PIOs to air limited messages of for-profit entities. As you know, public broadcasters already air limited messages from for-profit entities that sponsor numerous programs on their stations. I support PBS' current practice in this regard, as long as the policy is uniform for all non-commercial stations.

Therefore, I am seeking assurance from the FCC that all NCE PIO channels are afforded and permitted this same ability, specifically independent and religious programmers. Additionally, I seek further clarification regarding the definition of promotional announcements, particularly of for-profit entities, that are permitted on these stations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dan Coats  
U.S. Senator