

WILLIAM L. OWENS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing in regard to the FCC's efforts to update the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation mechanisms. In my Congressional District in Upstate New York, many of my constituents lack access to high-speed wired and wireless broadband networks, which are critical to economic development in the region.

This rulemaking process impacts several smaller telecom companies in my district for whom the USF and ICC fees provide an important source of funding to complete last-mile broadband projects that connect homes and small businesses. While I appreciate the intent of the Commission to ensure the USF's long-term stability by controlling the size of the fund, I am also mindful of the need to incentivize broadband investment in the rural areas of New York.

I respectfully request clarification that the rural carriers and the consumers who will be impacted by the FCC's Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking be given sufficient time to evaluate the recent reforms and adjust to the reductions in funding.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS
Member of Congress

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