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Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to commend the Commission for its work to date on its important proposed rule allowing interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers to obtain direct access to telephone numbers.

During the course of the rulemaking on direct access, the Commission has developed an extensive record that includes input from stakeholders and interested parties. While I understand that some parties expressed concerns, the multitude of evidence in the record points to the substantial public interest benefits associated with granting VoIP providers direct access to numbering resources. In addition, the Commission conducted a six-month trial of direct access to telephone numbers by certain interconnected VoIP providers to determine if direct access presented any technical issues. The Wireline Competition Bureau's report on the trial concluded that direct access did not present any technical issues.

The Commission has previously expressed the importance of moving quickly to advance the IP transition and the proposed rule allowing interconnected VoIP providers to obtain direct access to telephone numbers is part of that effort. Given the substantial record that the Commission has developed on direct access including a successful trial, the Commission should be well positioned to move quickly on this important piece of the IP transition.

I appreciate the Commission's efforts to date and urge the Commission to drive this rulemaking to an expeditious conclusion.

Sincerely,


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

CC: Jonathan Sallet, General Counsel
Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor - Wireline, Public Safety, and Homeland Security