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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 29, 2012

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554


Dear Mr. Chairman,

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) moves forward with implementation of its plan to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) rates, I wanted to address an issue that has drawn concern in regards to serving rural consumers in my state.

While I understand the importance and need to continually update telecommunications policy to foster economic development in a nation that relies on ubiquitous access to high-speed broadband, I think it's critical that in doing so we preserve the viability of telecommunication infrastructure that has served an important role in expanding access to both voice and broadband in a large number of rural communities. In particular, as the transition moves forward, the FCC should continue to examine specific instances in which a carrier offers evidence that it is unable to pay back existing Rural Utility Service (RUS) loans based on the FCC'S prior regulatory regime.

I appreciate the efforts of the FCC to undertake such a comprehensive task to modernize our nation's telecommunications policy and create incentives to deploy broadband infrastructure to many more millions of consumers who live in high cost rural areas. In doing so, I stand ready to work with you in my capacity as a legislator to provide guidance and resources necessary to provide broadband to all America. This result of more broadband capability is good for my constituents and good for our country.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)