



October 16, 2007

The Honorable Earl Pomeroy
Chairman, Rural Health Care Coalition
1501 Longworth Houses Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pomeroy,

On behalf of our member companies, many who serve some of the most rural and remote parts of our country, we ask for your support on H.R. 2054, the Universal Service Reform Act for 2007 introduced by Congressmen Rick Boucher and Lee Terry.

As you are aware, Americans living in rural America are often times at a disadvantage when it comes to obtaining quality health care compared to Americans living in more urban areas. However, modern technology is beginning to bridge the gap in health care services between rural and urban America.

The Rural Health Care Program (HCP) of the Universal Service Fund (USF) is a critical component in the future of health care in rural America. Through the RCP a health care provider can save on telecommunication services it already has, upgrade current services, or install new services.

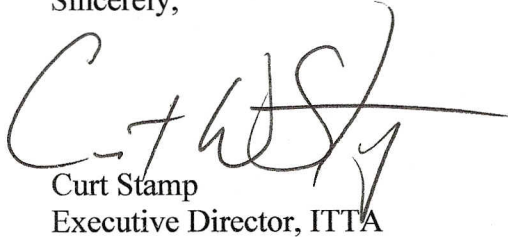
The health care opportunities that high speed telecommunications offer are unlimited. However, the Universal Service Fund which plays a critical rural in supporting the telecommunications network is broke and in need of reform. Failure to address reform could result in the elimination of the HCP which in medical terms could mean the difference between life and death in rural America.

H.R. 2054 would reform the fund and sustain it for the 21st century by encouraging telecommunication providers to invest in broadband capable networks. The USF plays a critical role in rural health care but it also keeps telephone rates affordable

for consumers living in rural America. Failure to reform the fund could result in telephone rates increasing over 100% and could leave millions of Americans without access to broadband related health care options.

We hope that the Rural Health Care Coalition will embrace the principals of H.R. 2054 and cosponsor this important legislation. If you or your staff should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

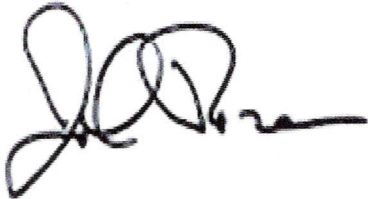
Sincerely,



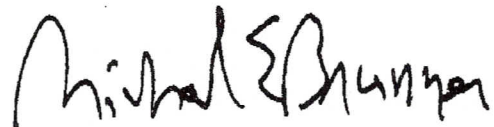
Curt Stamp
Executive Director, ITTA



Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President, WTA



John Rose
President, OPASTCO



Michael E. Brunner
CEO, NTCA

cc. Members of the Rural Health Care Coalition