

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2013

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

Re: *In the Matter of Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90,
Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Released: Nov. 19, 2012)*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We applaud your efforts and those of the other commissioners in the above-referenced proceeding “to further accelerate the deployment of broadband facilities to consumers who lack access to robust broadband.” We urge you to proceed promptly to finalize rules for CAF Phase I incremental support so that the \$185 million unclaimed in 2012 and the original \$300 million in support that is anticipated for 2013, can be invested quickly to deploy broadband and other advanced communication services in unserved areas across America.

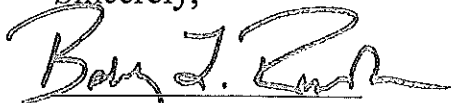
In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission began transform the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation systems. As part of the Commission’s reforms, costs to deliver modern communication and broadband services to high-cost rural and unserved areas will be partly underwritten by the new Connect America Fund (CAF). In executing on these reforms, CAF will accelerate broadband deployment to more than 18 million Americans who do not have access to broadband today.


Broadband is an essential facet of everyday life in our society – whether our constituents live in rural districts far from major shopping centers, or work in businesses fulfilling and delivering orders, or simply want convenient access to educational opportunities, remote health care applications, and the myriad other social interactions available on the Internet. Agricultural markets, emerging small businesses, online retailers, and families spread across the country and around the globe need dependable broadband access regardless of where they are located.

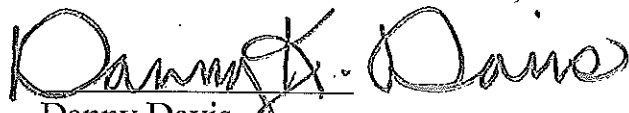
We urge you to expedite the network investments that finally would bring broadband to many corners of rural America. These investments will be transformative in growing the economy, creating jobs, and delivering opportunity to more Americans.

Thank you for your consideration.

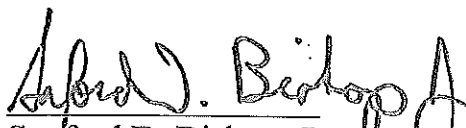
Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush

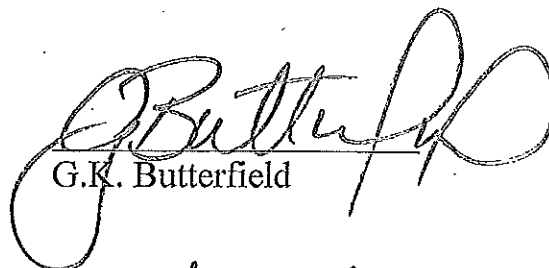

Cedric L. Richmond


Danny Davis


Corrine Brown

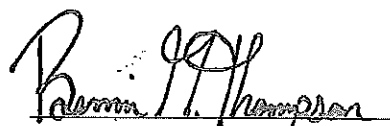

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Gregory W. Meeks


G.K. Butterfield


William Lacy Clay


Yvette D. Clarke


Bennie G. Thompson


Terri Sewell


Emanuel Cleaver