

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

January 3, 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:

I write to express my support for the Connect America Fund (CAF) and urge you to promptly finalize rules for Phase I incremental support. I appreciate your attention to this matter and consideration of my request.

In November 2011, under your leadership, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began a transformation of the Universal Service Fund and Intercarrier Compensation systems. As part of reform, the cost of delivering modern communication services to high-cost rural areas will be underwritten in part by the new CAF, with a primary objective being the extension of broadband to as many rural homes as possible. As the Commission noted at that time and again in its recent Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, referenced above, "over 80 percent of the more than 18 million Americans unserved by broadband live in price cap territories." For that reason, the FCC set aside \$600 million to invest in new broadband deployment in those territories during 2012 and 2013.

I applaud you and the Commission for seeking in this latest proceeding "to further accelerate the deployment of broadband facilities to consumers who lack access to robust broadband." I urge you to proceed promptly to finalize rules for CAF Phase I incremental support so that the \$185 million unclaimed in 2012, as well as the original \$300 million anticipated for 2013, will be quickly invested in broadband for rural communities.

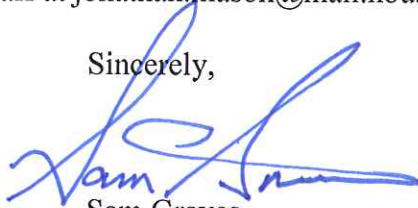
Broadband is an economic driver that provides rural Americans access to educational opportunities, remote healthcare applicants, and high-speed wireless service. Applications relying on a robust broadband infrastructure are now essential in agricultural markets, for emerging small businesses, and for consumer access to online

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
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retailers. It is vital to my rural constituents that the FCC quickly refine the rules so these funds are rapidly invested in broadband infrastructure that will help attract more businesses and jobs to these areas.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. Please direct any questions and response to JP Mason of my staff at jonathan.mason@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Graves", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2507

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 2004

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:

I am writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to expand broadband access to currently unserved Missouri residences by proceeding expeditiously with distribution of the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I incremental support in 2013.

Missouri has a robust and dynamic digital economy which has brought innovation and entrepreneurship to numerous industries, generating jobs and economic development and enabling our citizens to take advantage of telemedicine, distance learning and many other online opportunities. Our digital economy rests on broadband availability, and unfortunately there are still thousands of Missourians who do not have broadband access.

I commend the Commission for reforming the Universal Service Fund and creating the CAF to target broadband support to those places where such infrastructure would not otherwise be available, but I am anxious to see the tangible results of such reforms in Missouri. In 2012, the Commission awarded less than half of the CAF 1 incremental support while thousands of households in price cap service areas continued to wait for broadband availability.

I am encouraged by the November 19, 2012 proposed rulemaking which refined the eligibility rules so that the full amounts of CAF I incremental support from 2012 and 2013 can be used to reach unserved households in price cap service areas, and I hope you will act on it as soon as possible. I want to emphasize how urgent I consider this issue to my state and constituents and look forward to working with you to ensure the CAF's success.

Sincerely,



Billy Long
Member of Congress

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