

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 12, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

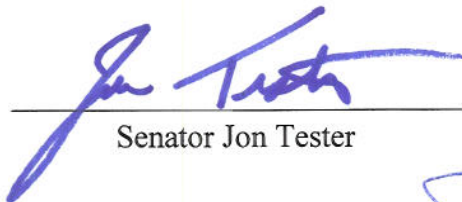
We write to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to expand broadband access to currently unserved Montana residences by proceeding with distribution of the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I resources in 2013. It is vital to Montanans' economy and quality of life that we deploy broadband to households and businesses that don't have these services.

Continued investments in broadband infrastructure will boost economic development and promote innovation and entrepreneurship across rural parts of the country. We have seen small businesses thrive in large part because of their ability to do business online. This technology connects farmers and ranchers with markets all over the world and allows local startups to become integral national defense companies.

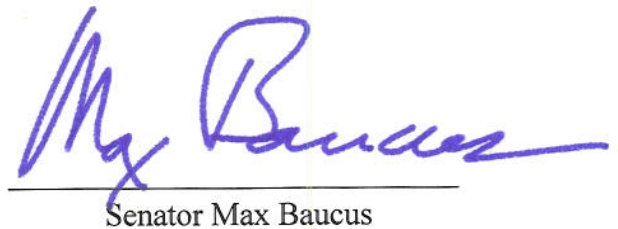
Montana is one of the largest states in the country and the nearest hospital or school can be hundreds of miles away. Broadband allows people living in rural areas to access telemedicine services and online education courses. These technological advances allow Montanans to get better health care and further their education.

We are encouraged that resources from the initial CAF I offering will expand services in Montana but there are still thousands of Montanans who do not have access to broadband. We urge you to ensure that all remaining CAF I funds are allocated to expand broadband infrastructure to unserved Montanans. Please don't hesitate to contact our offices if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Senator Jon Tester



Senator Max Baucus



Congressman Steve Daines