

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

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

North Carolina has a robust and dynamic digital economy that 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. But our digital economy rests on broadband availability, and unfortunately there are still thousands of North Carolinians who do not have broadband access.

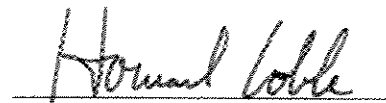
We commend the Commission for reforming the Universal Service Fund and creating the Connect America Fund to target broadband support to those places where such infrastructure would not otherwise be available, but we're anxious to see the tangible results of such reforms in North Carolina. In 2012, the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

We're encouraged by the November 19 proposed rulemaking (FNPRM) to refine 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 we hope you will act on it as soon as possible. We want to emphasize how urgent we consider the issue to our state and our constituents, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the success of the Connect America Fund.

Sincerely,

  
The Honorable Robert Pittenger

  
The Honorable Mike McIntyre

  
The Honorable Howard Coble

  
The Honorable Walter B. Jones, Jr.

  
The Honorable Mark Meadows