

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
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January 15, 2013

Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Room: 8-B201
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)

Mr. Chairman:

I respect you for taking on a tough and controversial task – overhauling the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation and creating the Connect America Fund (CAF). It is vital to rural America that your reforms succeed. At this stage, I must observe that relatively modest gains have been achieved for rural consumers. While the FCC has set aside \$600 million to invest in new broadband deployment during 2012 and 2013, much of this capital remains on the sidelines, and the wait for broadband is stretching on.

As the FCC has noted, more than 80 percent of Americans without broadband live in those rural areas served by price cap companies. That amounts to more than 18 million people. CAF Phase I was designed to bring rapid broadband expansion in these areas, and if CAF-I lags, so will broadband deployment. The current slow pace is regrettable when you consider that the FCC financed state-of-the-art networks for thousands of other rural Americans a decade or more ago.

Fortunately, a favorable outcome is at hand in the FCC's November 19th further notice (FNPRM), which says the goal for the FCC should be to refine the CAF rules to enable price cap carriers to bring service to eligible unserved households as quickly as possible. I encourage the FCC to proceed with a second round of CAF projects in 2013 that fully utilizes the \$600 million set aside for this important work during 2012 and 2013.

Broadband is an economic driver that provides rural Americans access to educational opportunities, remote healthcare applications, 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 retailers. It is vital to our rural constituents that the FCC refine the rules so these funds are rapidly invested in broadband infrastructure that will help attract more businesses and jobs to these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Greg Guice, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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March 4, 2013

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Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
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445 12th Street, NW
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. Chairman:

Thank you for taking on a tough and controversial task – overhauling the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation and creating the Connect America Fund (CAF). It is vital unserved and underserved areas across the country that your reforms succeed. While the FCC has set aside \$600 million to invest in new broadband deployment during 2012 and 2013, much of this capital remains on the sidelines and the wait for broadband is stretching on.

As the FCC has noted, more than 80 percent of Americans without broadband live in those rural areas served by price cap companies. That amounts to more than 18 million people. CAF Phase I was designed to bring rapid broadband expansion in these areas, and if CAF-I lags, so will broadband deployment.

The FCC's November 19th further notice (FNPRM) states that the goal for the FCC should be to refine the CAF rules to enable price cap carriers to bring service to eligible unserved households as quickly as possible. I hope that you will consider allowing the FCC to proceed with a second round of CAF projects in 2013 that fully utilizes the \$600 million set aside for this important work during 2012 and 2013.

Broadband is an economic driver that provides rural Americans access to educational opportunities, remote healthcare applications, 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 retailers. It is vital that these funds are rapidly invested in broadband infrastructure that will help attract more businesses and jobs to

these areas. We cannot continue to leave these Americans behind.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Jamie Miller in my office should you need additional information.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

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