

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2013

Julius Genachoski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

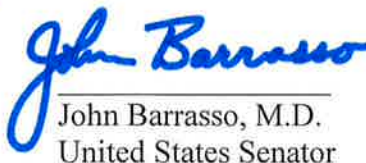
In November 2011, the FCC began a multi-year transformation of the Universal Service Fund (USF) and inter-carrier compensation, creating the Connect America Fund (CAF) to further infrastructure investment and broadband deployment. While we recognize the magnitude of this endeavor, we write with serious concerns that the promise of CAF I remains unfulfilled. In Wyoming, these incremental support funds are needed to reach thousands of rural, unserved households – particularly for households in price-cap territories that remain without broadband service.

The Commission hailed CAF I as paving the way for millions of dollars in new broadband investments in Wyoming, with the potential to connect as many as 1,000 previously unserved locations, exponentially multiplying the positive economic impact of those investments. Unfortunately, the FCC's overly prescriptive eligibility criteria in 2012 restricted broadband deployment in our state, passing over hundreds of households despite available funds and providers willing to match CAF I funds. The FCC has an obligation to fulfill its USF and CAF missions of connecting rural America. So far, the FCC has yet to uphold its end of the deal and adequate broadband service remains unavailable to many living in rural Wyoming.

Our constituents need these services and access to broadband to manage their farms and ranches, grow their small businesses and help drive our nation's economic recovery. Broadband is essential to provide access to educational opportunities, remote healthcare, and simply to connect to the wider world already enjoying the benefits of easily accessible connections. Applications relying on a robust broadband infrastructure are now crucial in agricultural markets, for emerging small businesses, and in attracting new businesses to invest in Wyoming. It is vital to our constituents and the State of Wyoming that the Commission ensure all CAF I funds for 2012 and 2013 are fully and responsibly allocated to expand the broadband infrastructure so needed to revitalize rural America.

Sincerely,


Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator


John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator


Cynthia Lummis
United States Representative