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February 12, 2013



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to convey the importance of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) proceeding swiftly with the distribution of Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I incremental support in 2013. Expeditious distribution will greatly improve access to unserved rural residences and small business across Colorado.

In Colorado, we are wholly focused on creating a robust ecosystem for business to thrive and our economy to prosper. Advancements in broadband have undoubtedly contributed to reinforcing Colorado as a hub for innovation that not only serves as a means to develop economically, but also to improve Coloradans quality of life – whether it is through access to new remote learning opportunities or telemedicine. Though great strides have been made over the past several years in the provision of broadband, many communities, often rural in nature, remain underserved.

As you know, recent changes to the Universal Service Fund and the creation of the Connect America Fund have sought to facilitate greater access to broadband support in places where such infrastructure would not otherwise be available. Despite these efforts, I understand that in 2012 the FCC awarded less than half of the CAF 1 incremental support despite the need among thousands of households in price cap service areas that lack reliable broadband availability. Just as the many Coloradans in underserved areas, I am hopeful that recent federal reforms will result in tangible results that mean the residents and small businesses in these areas can have greater access to broadband as a tool for economic development and the well being of their communities.

I am encouraged by the continued efforts to make better use of the CAF, including the refinement of eligibility rules so that the full amounts of CAF I incremental support from 2012 and 2013 can be used to reach underserved households in price cap service areas. I believe that communities across Colorado stand to benefit from enhanced access to broadband that can provide a considerable tool in their economic development and that of the state and nation. I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to learning of your progress.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper
Governor