



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

January 9, 2013

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman,

In November 2011, under your leadership, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began a multi-year transformation of the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation, creating the Connect America Fund (CAF I). While I recognize the magnitude of this endeavor, I write to express my concern that the promise of CAF I remains unfulfilled. The FCC must invest all allotted CAF I incremental support funds to reach the thousands of Idahoans in price-cap territories that remain without access to broadband service.

The Commission hailed CAF I as paving the way for millions of dollars in new broadband investments in Idaho, and the potential to connect more than 2,000 previously unserved locations. Unfortunately, the FCC's overly prescriptive eligibility criteria in 2012 restricted broadband deployment, passing over hundreds of households despite available funds. My constituents contribute money to this fund each month with the expectation that the FCC will fulfill its mission to connect rural America. So far, the FCC has yet to uphold its end of the deal and adequate broadband service remains unavailable to too many rural Idahoans.

Broadband is an economic driver that provides 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 in attracting new businesses to invest in Idaho. It is vital to Idahoans that the commission ensures these funds materialize in the broadband infrastructure that will help revitalize rural America.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and timely attention to this important issue.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/mw