

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 28, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Reforming the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) and creating the Connect America Fund (CAF) in 2012 to target broadband infrastructure is vital to rural America. The Federal Communications Commission must proceed expeditiously with the distribution of the CAF Phase I incremental support funds in 2013.

Broadband is a key economic driver in the 21st century. Unfortunately, over 400,000 households in West Virginia do not have access to robust broadband service according to FCC data. Development of broadband to our underserved citizens of West Virginia will increase access to online education, remote healthcare and employment opportunities and access to high-speed wireless service. Applications relying on robust broadband infrastructure are now essential in agricultural markets, for emerging small businesses, and for consumer access to online retailers.

The Commission's Further Notice issued on November 19, 2012 proposing to enable access to CAF I funds in 2013 is promising. The FCC must act as soon as possible to ensure West Virginians are given every available opportunity to grow and compete. We cannot continue to leave rural Americans behind.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Cory Toth of my staff at (202) 225-4172, or by email at cory.toth@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress