

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 12, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-C445
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to reform the Universal Service Fund. Like you, we support modernizing the FCC's programs and believe the Commission should improve accountability and make them more focused on broadband service in unserved areas. These key improvements would help meet the goals of making advanced services available to more families in rural areas. We understand that in 2012, the FCC awarded less than half of the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase 1 incremental support, which causes concern for our constituents in unserved areas of Louisiana.

With its headquarters in Monroe, CenturyLink, one of only three Fortune 500 companies anchored in Louisiana, is an important part of our economy and an important driver of community development throughout our state. As they work to expand broadband to unserved areas, the company has invested more than \$880 million in its networks in our state alone - enabling numerous rural communities to access advanced technology in the modern information economy. As the company grows and adds hundreds of high-paying jobs in Monroe, its role as a national leader in broadband investment and deployment is increasingly important to our state.

We ask that you work to ensure that all CAF Phase 1 funds for 2012 and 2013 allocated to CenturyLink are expeditiously and responsibly distributed for their use in expanding to unserved areas. We look forward to working with you and the Commission to support improvements to our nation's broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator