

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

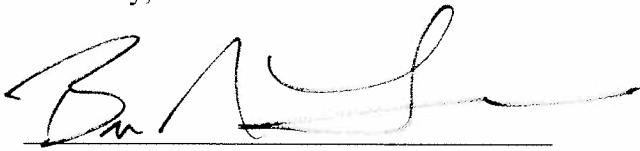
We are writing to you as Members of Congress representing rural districts that depend on increased investment in mobile wireless broadband services to close the rural digital divide. We urge the Federal Communications Commission to help meet the needs of our constituents and move expeditiously to adopt final rules governing the Wireless Communications Service (WCS) spectrum.

We commend the Administration and the Commission for making broadband access to all American households and broadband deployment a priority. While the Commission's planned February report to Congress on broadband will be helpful, we would urge the Commission not to delay ongoing rulemakings that would be consistent with the Administration's broadband priorities and could free up spectrum immediately. We are particularly concerned that the WCS rulemaking, which would make near-term wireless broadband deployment possible in the 2.3 GHz band, not be further delayed.

The 2.3 GHz WCS spectrum has been mostly fallow for over a decade in large part because final technical rules have not been adopted. Until final rules exist, equipment manufacturers and wireless network operators cannot offer consumers cost-effective wireless mobile broadband services. In rural areas, where the need for these services is particularly acute, it is critical that we make spectrum available without further delay. We understand that technical rules for the WCS spectrum were drafted by the Commission almost a year ago, but are still awaiting Commission approval. We know that you are addressing a backlog of inherited issues and an aggressive policy agenda, but we urge you to make this critical issue a top priority. In addition to the anti-consumer effects of further delay, the companies who hold the licenses now face summer 2010 FCC buildout requirements, making swift resolution of the rules governing the spectrum even more critical.

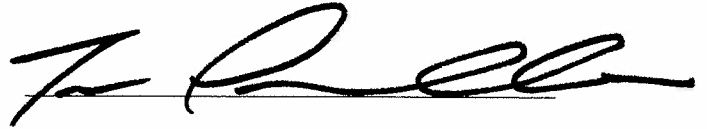
On behalf of our constituents, we urge the Commission to make mobile broadband deployment in rural America a priority and expeditiously adopt the WCS rules. Please keep us informed of the Commission's plans and when final rules for the WCS spectrum are expected to be adopted. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



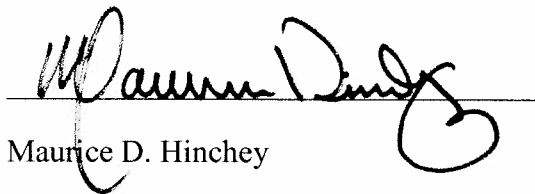
Ben Ray Luján

Member of Congress



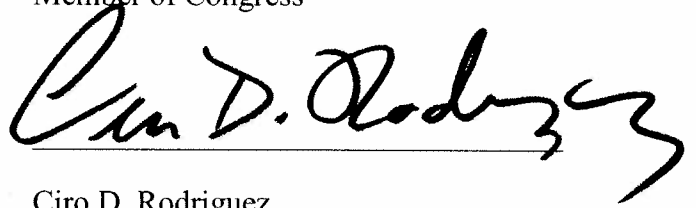
Tom Perriello

Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey

Member of Congress



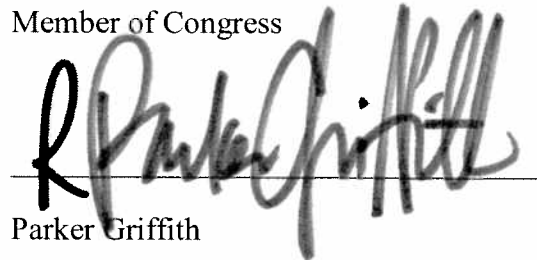
Ciro D. Rodriguez

Member of Congress



Frank Kratovil

Member of Congress



Parker Griffith

Member of Congress



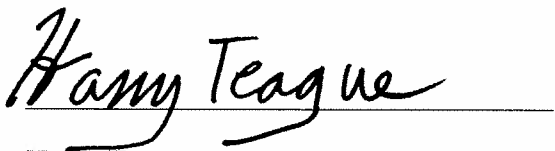
Steve Kagen

Member of Congress



Tim Holden

Member of Congress



Harry Teague

Member of Congress



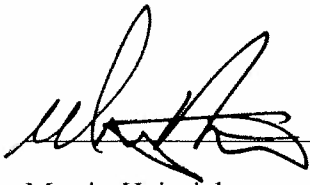
Zack Space

Member of Congress



John Salazar

Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich

Member of Congress



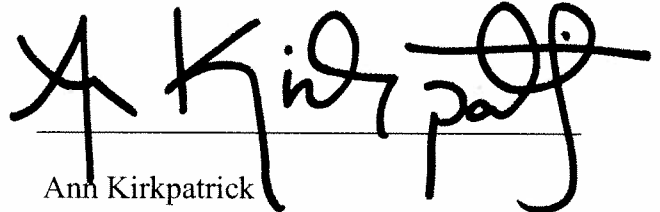
John Boccieri

Member of Congress



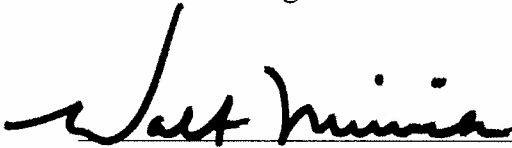
Bruce Braley

Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick

Member of Congress



Walt Minnick

Member of Congress