



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to postpone implementation of the new Lifeline eligibility certification requirements. I value your views and appreciate your support for the Commission's efforts to eliminate the waste and abuse in this important program. Your letter will be included in the Lifeline reform proceeding record for Commission consideration.

As you have noted, the Commission has made some tough choices in reforming the Lifeline program. In the certification requirement in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission balanced the urgent need to stem waste and abuse with the potential additional burden on certain consumers to obtain a Lifeline-supported service. After careful consideration, the Commission unanimously adopted the eligibility certification requirement as an interim step to verify the eligibility of all Lifeline recipients while it transitions to a national eligibility database. Providers have since developed a number of innovative solutions to ensure compliance with the requirement while minimizing consumer burden, while a national eligibility database is developed. The savings from the improved accountability among other things, are allowing the Commission to lay the groundwork for modernizing the Lifeline program to include broadband service, which we agree is critical for low-income Americans to benefit from the twenty-first century economy. Our steps are also ensuring a strong foundation for a strong and lasting Lifeline program.

I look forward to working with you further as the Commission continues its efforts to advance access to telecommunications and broadband for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski