



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2012

0198

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
The Honorable Robert McDowell
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners McDowell, and Clyburn:

As you know, in 2004, independent payphone service providers filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeking a declaratory ruling on refunds. I am writing to urge the Commission to expedite consideration of the petition and complete the vote.

This petition has been pending for over seven years without resolution. I understand that with empty seats on the Commission it has proved to be difficult to resolve this and other issues, however, these continued delays have a significant impact on the independent payphone service providers. I firmly believe that the time has come for the Commission to resolve this matter.

As Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee and a New Yorker, I have seen firsthand the need for a reliable communications system, including the availability of payphones. Despite the high and growing use of cellular phones, during terror attacks and certain natural disasters, it has been shown that commercial networks may not work. Payphones provide an important layer of communications capability.

A decision by the Commission on this issue is long overdue. I urge prompt consideration of the petition and completion of the voting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter T. King", written over a horizontal line.

PETER T. KING
Chairman