

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 27, 2010

**0890**

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Thank you for your excellent leadership of the Federal Communications Commission. This is a vital area of concern for our country's economy. Today, we are writing regarding the Commission's proposed changes to the compensation rates for the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund for providers of Video Relay Service (VRS).

As you know, VRS is a crucial service that allows deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to make calls in American Sign Language to other individuals through videophones – without having to rely on typed text, which can be slower and more cumbersome to use. VRS technology has revolutionized communications for deaf individuals across the country, and this is the kind of innovation that we believe must receive continued support. This is an invaluable service to hundreds of deaf individuals in our home state of Maine, and VRS providers account for many quality jobs in Maine and across the country.

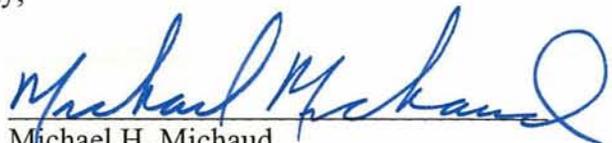
We understand that the Commission must strike a balance between compensating these providers adequately for the essential service that they provide, and remaining fiscally responsible and maintaining accountability for the funds they disburse. As you consider the rate changes, we urge you to maintain a commitment to preserving VRS and implement a long-term rate structure that is fair and consistent, so that deaf individuals in Maine and across the country can continue to access this important service.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you and the Commission on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress