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November 17, 2008

Dear [Member of Congress],

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to Chairman Martin regarding the Commission's November 4th meeting agenda, which included Intercarrier Compensation and Universal Service Reform.

As you are aware, Intercarrier Compensation and Universal Service Reform were pulled from the agenda on November 3rd. Both items are now expected to be addressed at the Commission's next meeting on December 18th. In addition, on November 6th, the Chairman begrudgingly issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM). In his statement he said,

"I am disappointed with the further notice issued...we begin again from square one."

This, in fact, is incorrect, as several aspects of the order have yet to be commented on.

While our initial request was for transparency, which we have now been given, I find myself making another plea for you to reach out to the Commission again and ask that they allow the time needed for thorough and carefully scrutinized comments to be submitted and reviewed. Comments are due November 26th and reply comments are due December 3rd. With the Thanksgiving holiday cutting into this timeframe, this essentially gives the Commission 17 days to wade through what is expected to be hundreds of thousands of pages. In addition, the Commission must then issue a draft order and circulate it. In my opinion, I don't see how it is possible to do that in a thoughtful manner with such a short amount of time given for the process.

COMPTEL and its member companies do not want to appear ungrateful, nor is it our intention to try to hold up the process, but rather, we ask that the commission not be so quick to act on two major reforms when there is no real urgency attached to either. Not to mention, the abbreviated comment period hardly allows for any real analysis or digestion on the Commission's part of issues that could dramatically alter the entire telecommunications industry.

So, while we are appreciative for your initial efforts on this matter, we ask that you reach out to the Commission and urge them to practice extreme caution while moving forward. Chairman Martin may not agree, but I do not think it was a mistake to remove Intercarrier Compensation and Universal Service from the November 4th agenda. In fact, the four other Commissioners appear to agree. However, it will be a mistake to keep it on the December 18th agenda without ample time taken for consideration and examination on both sides.

Thank you again; your continued and sustained support is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Salmon  
President, COMPTEL

MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED LETTER:

Senator Ben Nelson	Rep. Ike Skelton	Rep. Steve King
Senator Lamar Alexander	Rep. Todd Akin	Rep. Phil Hare
Senator Jim Bunning	Rep. Mike Ross	Rep. Ray LaHood
Senator Mitch McConnell	Rep. Charles Boustany	Rep. Maurice Hinchey
Senator Sherrod Brown	Rep. Shelley Berkely	Rep. Tom Latham
Senator Judd Gregg	Rep. Nancy Boyda	Rep. Ruben Hinojosa
Senator John Cornyn	Rep. Charlie Melancon	Rep. Dave Loebsack
Senator Dave Vitter	Rep. Tom Feeney	Rep. Tim Holden
Senator Hillary Clinton	Rep. J. Gresham Barrett	Rep. Patrick McHenry
Senator Claire McCaskill	Rep. Rick Boucher	Rep. Steve Kagen
Senator Olympia Snowe	Rep. Lee Terry	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers
Senator Amy Klobuchar	Rep. Bart Gordon	Rep. Ron Kind
Senator Blanche Lincoln	Rep. Ralph Hall	Rep. Thomas Petri
Senator Tim Johnson	Rep. Bart Stupak	Rep. Mike McIntyre
Senator John Thune	Rep. Nathan Deal	Rep. Jon Porter
Senator John Barasso	Rep. Tammy Baldwin	Rep. James Oberstar
Senator Mike Enzi	Rep. Greg Walden	Rep. Dennis Rehberg
Senator Arlen Specter	Rep. Jim Matheson	Rep. Collin Peterson
Senator Byron Dorgan	Rep. Sue Myrick	Rep. Harold Rogers
Senator Herbet Kohl	Rep. John Barrow	Rep. Adam Smith
Senator Russ Feingold	Rep. Rodney Alexander	Rep. Jean Schmidt
Senator Chuck Hagel	Rep. Michael Arcuri	Rep. Vic Snyder
Senator Patrick Leahy	Rep. John Boozman	Rep. Adrian Smith
Senator Bernie Sanders	Rep. Marion Berry	Rep. Zack Space
Senator Bob Corker	Rep. Steve Chabot	Rep. Lamar Smith
Senator Bill Nelson	Rep. Leonard Boswell	Rep. Tim Walz
Rep. Joe Barton	Rep. Howard Coble	Rep. Mac Thornberry
Rep. John Shimkus	Rep. Bruce Braley	Rep. Charlie Wilson
Rep. Dave Hobson	Rep. Jo Ann Emerson	Rep. Zach Wamp
Rep. Pat Tiberi	Rep. Christopher Carney	Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Rep. Virginia Foxx	Rep. Randy Kuhl	Rep. Jim McCrery
Rep. Joe Wilson	Rep. Lincoln Davis	Rep. Jeff Fortenberry
Rep. G.K. Butterfield	Rep. Louie Gohmert	Rep. John McHugh
Rep. Ed Whitfield	Rep. Lloyd Doggett	Rep. Kenny Hulshof
Rep. Dennis Moore	Rep. Walter Jones	
Rep. Steve Scalise	Rep. Bob Etheridge	