



July 22, 2010

Rick Boucher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet
United States House of Representatives
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boucher:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association and its more than 580 rural communications service provider members, I wish to inform you of our support for the Universal Service Reform Act of 2010.

It is with sincere admiration that we congratulate you and your colleague, Rep. Lee Terry for the immense effort you have put into developing a bill that responds to the needs and concerns of multiple parties that have interest in this program.

Today, there is widespread agreement regarding the promise of broadband and its critical nature to the future of rural America and indeed the nation as a whole. Yet, simultaneously rural communications service providers, the very entrepreneurs that will continue to be crucial to fulfilling this vision, have never faced a more uncertain future largely due to the misguided nature of the National Broadband Plan (NBP).

We firmly believe the Universal Service Reform Act of 2010 will not only help to redirect the implementation of the ill-considered universal service provisions of the NBP, but will likewise serve to transform, strengthen, and preserve this cornerstone of our national communications policy.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer

SAB/tdw

cc: Representative Lee Terry