

PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
PUERTO RICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1218 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-2615 FAX: (202) 225-2154

SAN JUAN OFFICE:
250 CALLE FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PR 00901
(787) 723-6333 FAX: (787) 729-7738

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND LABOR
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5401

July 17, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

In April 2008 my colleague, Congressman José E. Serrano, and my predecessor as Resident Commissioner—and current Puerto Rico Governor—Luis G. Fortuño, wrote a letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin to express concern that residents of Puerto Rico do not enjoy the same basic telecommunications services that their fellow citizens in other U.S. jurisdictions are able to take for granted. In their letter, a copy of which I have enclosed, Messrs. Serrano and Fortuño noted that for a dozen years—now more than 13—the FCC has not acted to implement a congressional mandate to adopt universal service funding for insular areas. Such funding would be available to help Puerto Rico construct new telephone infrastructure, upgrade existing infrastructure, improve quality of service, and maintain affordable rates. Furthermore, Messrs. Serrano and Fortuño observed that two and a half years ago—now over three years ago—a unanimous Commission adopted a tentative conclusion to implement an insular-specific support mechanism. The letter urged Chairman Martin to bring the mechanism up for a vote before the Commission in the near term.

I write now to respectfully reiterate the serious needs of my constituents and to underscore the importance of prompt action on this issue. I have been advised that the Commission has recently committed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that it will act by April 16, 2010 on its pending Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 05-205, which tentatively concluded to adopt an insular-specific support mechanism. While this is welcome news, I want to express my strong hope that the Commission will bring the insular-specific support mechanism up for a vote well before the April 16th court deadline. The congressional mandate for FCC action is clear, the Commission has already unanimously decided it should move forward in adopting an

insular-specific support mechanism, and the record on this issue is complete. The people of Puerto Rico have been waiting a long time to enjoy the same level of basic telephone and Internet services as the rest of the country. Absent the most compelling reasons, they should not have to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Enclosure