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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
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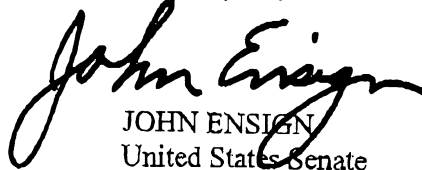
Dear Chairman Powell:

I want to applaud your proactive efforts to consider the implications of rapidly advancing technology as it increasingly impacts our current telecommunications regulatory framework. The advent of next generation networks raises important questions for both the FCC and Congress as to the appropriate regulatory treatment of these new and exciting services and delivery mechanisms.

It is my hope that your upcoming Forum on VoIP will help you to gather important information concerning advancements, innovations, and regulatory issues related to VoIP services. As you examine these important issues, it is my hope that the Commission will do so in a competitively neutral manner. It is important that we move away from the government's picking winners and losers and instead look to market-based solutions to provide the best services at the best prices for consumers. The one common message we hear from all sectors of the telecommunications industry is that regulatory certainty is crucial to attracting capital to deploy infrastructure and new services that will benefit consumers. It is my hope that the Commission keeps these principles in mind as you proceed.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,


JOHN ENSIGN
United States Senate

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