October 27, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Universal Service Fund and Intercarrier Compensation Proposals

Dear Chairman Martin:

The organizations below collectively represent millions of Americans, including many low-income and minority households.

We are concerned to learn that the FCC may be considering last-minute changes to the U.S. phone system that will mean higher prices for millions of consumers.

The proposed changes are expected to significantly increase subscriber line charges and universal service fees paid by households and small businesses. These monthly charges would, in effect, act as a sort of regressive tax on many low-income families at a time when many are already struggling with difficult economic circumstances.

We recognize the importance of reforming these systems, but believe that any changes that would increase phone bills for millions of U.S. households should be carefully and deliberately discussed, not rushed through at the last minute.

Therefore, we urge the Commission to vote no November 4 on anything that is going to raise the cost of phone service for average working Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clayola Brown  
President  
A. Philip Randolph Institute

/s/ Gary Flowers  
Executive Director & CEO  
Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

/s/ Antonio Gil Morales  
National Commander  
American GI Forum of the United States

/s/ Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez  
President  
Hispanic Federation
/s/ Dr. Gabriela Lemus  
Executive Director  
Labor Council for Latin American  
Advancement (LCLAA)  

/s/ Niel Ritchie  
Executive Directors  
League of Rural Voters  

/s/ Rev. Miguel Rivera  
President  
National Coalition of Latino Clergy  
and Christian Leaders  

/s/ Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.  
National Chair  
National Congress of Black Women  

CC:  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Tate