



PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

January 8, 2013

**SENT VIA U. S. FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: 700 MHz Spectrum Interoperability

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I have reviewed the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Map, published on December 5, 2012. It appears to be obvious that the map grossly misrepresents the wireline broadband coverage in Mississippi. Several interested parties within the State of Mississippi will be filing formal comments to the published map, which will explain the discrepancies in greater detail than will this letter. Nevertheless, I believe it is important that you understand I am giving this issue serious attention.

The National Broadband Map depicts nearly full fixed broadband coverage throughout the State of Mississippi. The map represents that, in the heart of a rural and widely underserved region, almost 100% coverage begins at Mississippi's borders. As much as I wish this was an accurate illustration, it is not. Although we are working very hard to increase coverage in our state, and have made the same a high priority, the fact is that Mississippi is a very rural state and the challenge of getting high-speed internet out to our citizens remains.

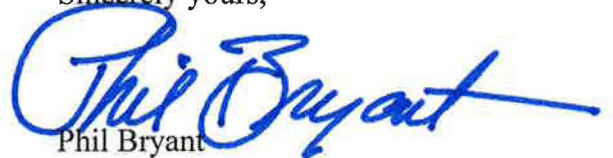
The Universal Service funds available for broadband infrastructure, now Connect America, have been instrumental to the progress we have made in our state. Our citizens are demanding high-speed internet more and more every day. They know that it brings better education opportunities, greater access to the workforce and healthcare, and a better quality of life. The mistakes in the current map could unjustly deprive the citizens of Mississippi of the funding that would be available if our coverage was accurately defined.

I appreciate the task of determining how these Connect America funds will be spent in every state, and I know it is a difficult one. However, anyone who looks upon the current National Broadband Map will immediately notice the anomaly in the Southeast region of that map. That anomaly is Mississippi. Our state has made great strides with regard to broadband

coverage in recent years, but we still have a long way to go before approaching coverage even close to that depicted on the National Broadband Map.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and for your attention to the entire Connect America project. I hope that you will give strong consideration to the comments that will be filed on behalf of the State of Mississippi, and that these comments will lead the FCC to a conclusion that more accurately depicts that broadband coverage existing our state. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

  
Phil Bryant