November 10, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation’s oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the country, I am writing to encourage Congressional action to protect and promote mobile connectivity by creating a robust pipeline of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.

Internet connectivity is vital to the Latino community. From email to web access, to texts, Latinos rely on technology for daily services more than any other community. Increased access to both mobile and broadband will provide the Latino community with more than just options for new technologies, it will give an enhanced ability to function more fully in our growing digital society – a step towards closing the digital divide.

With increased mobile use and the perpetual development of new wireless technology, the country’s limited spectrum resources are rapidly approaching capacity. According to CTIA, mobile data traffic is expected to increase by six times its current rate over the next four years. By next year, America will be home to over 3 billion networked devices. The nation’s growing demand for connectivity is running head first into an ecosystem where only 16% of the eligible spectrum is being used for consumer devices. Without a forward-thinking plan to reallocate spectrum from other areas, consumer demand will surely overtake supply.

LULAC believes that Congress should act quickly on this issue to prevent a nationwide spectrum shortage and help meet President Obama’s goal of clearing additional spectrum by 2020. This is why we are encouraged by the recent draft legislation from the Senate Commerce Committee, which aims to take a comprehensive approach towards developing a long-term spectrum strategy.

As the year comes to a close, it’s imperative for Congress to finalize this legislation in a bi-partisan manner to promote digital inclusion and safeguard mobile connectivity as a platform for enhanced social and entrepreneurial activity in Latino communities. For more information, or should you have any questions, please contact Luis Torres, LULAC National Director of Policy, by email at latorres@lulac.org or by phone at 202-833-6130.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President