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July 6, 2011

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an integrated telecommunications company serving rural parts of the country. While our largest concentration of access lines is in New England (as a result of purchasing all of Verizon's landline holdings in ME, NH and VT) we also have 24 smaller companies operating in 15 other states including Ohio. Specifically in Ohio, we operate Columbus Grove Telephone, Germantown Telephone and Orwell Communications. Collectively we serve over 13,000 rural access line equivalents, have over 20 employees and have invested almost \$49,000,000 in infrastructure in the state.

Recently, you introduced H.R.2289, the FCC Analysis of Benefits and Costs Act. FairPoint Communications supports H.R. 2289 and will work towards moving it through the legislative process.

The cost of regulation on FairPoint Communications and other broadband providers is crippling the ability to invest more resources in broadband networks. For example, late last year the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) adopted its *Open Internet Order*¹ which will create excessive regulatory burdens on FairPoint and other broadband providers. These additional regulatory burdens mandate additional requirements on transparency, and create new regulations on formal complaints and data collection from broadband providers. We believe this is another example where not only were additional rules not necessary, they will also be costly to implement.

H.R. 2289 would mandate that the FCC in future rule makings publish an analysis of the benefits and costs of the proposed rule or final rule. FairPoint Communications supports H.R. 2289 common sense approach to ensuring that the FCC does not create undue regulation on a segment of our economy that continues to grow.

Once again, FairPoint Communications supports H.R. 2289 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Morse", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick L. Morse
Sr. VP – Government Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Greg Walden

¹ GN Docket No. 09-191, WC Docket No. 07-52