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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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October 25, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Michael Powell:
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Members of Congress who represent constituents in rural parts of the country, we are interested in supporting the fullest development of infrastructure that can bring advanced communications and fast Internet access to our rural constituents. We were very pleased that in your Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Docket 95-18, the Commission reiterated its "commitment to policies promoting the provision of broadband communications services to rural, unserved and underserved areas of the country." (NPRM ¶23). We share this commitment and encourage you to pursue it with us for the benefit of the great number of rural Americans we represent

We understand that this NPRM includes a proposal regarding flexible use of spectrum by mobile satellite service ("MSS") providers. We are very pleased that the Commission is considering these proposals. A viable MSS industry will provide advanced communications to rural and remote areas throughout the country — areas that may not be readily or economically served by terrestrial systems. Given the problems to date with the weakness of satellite signals indoors and in "urban canyons," the MSS industry's request for regulatory flexibility in the use of their spectrum seems very appropriate. By adding terrestrial service as an adjunct to their satellite service — without using any additional spectrum and only after their satellite systems are up and commercially operating — MSS operators believe they can become a more economically viable industry. Providing MSS operators with the flexibility to fill gaps in their coverage will benefit our rural constituents because satellite communications will be available to rural and urban users alike. Without this flexibility, these satellite services may not be available at all.

We believe that satellite service holds as much or greater promise than any other option for delivering advanced communications and high-speed Internet access to our constituents in rural and remote areas. On balance, we think the MSS industry should

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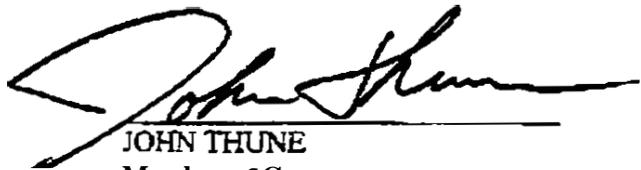
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have a chance to prove itself and believe that the ancillary terrestrial component will allow it to do that. We realize that there are many complexities to this issue and trust that you will deal with them fairly and expeditiously.

with kind regards,



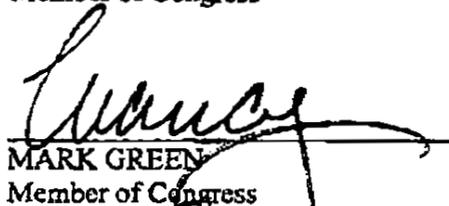
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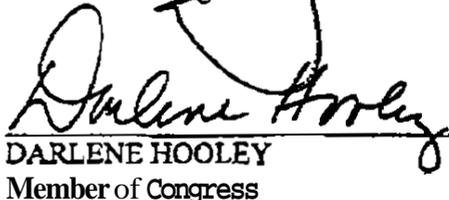
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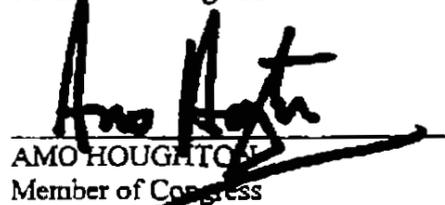
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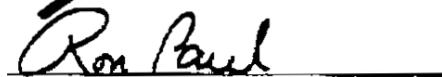
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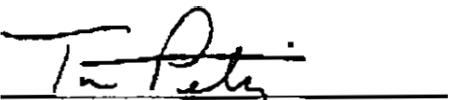
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