



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 10, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on the workload of the Commission.

When I arrived at the Commission, I asked the staff to focus on reducing the backlogged applications and petitions, and work to close out stale dockets. I am pleased to report that the Commission has made progress in reducing the backlog in a number of areas.

Because of the hard work of the Commission staff, the number of license and license renewal applications pending at the Commission has reduced by 12 percent. Notably, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has reduced its pending applications by 38 percent, the International Bureau has reduced its pending applications by 52 percent, and the Media Bureau has reduced the number of applications pending more than 5 years by 43 percent.

Additionally, the Commission has reduced the number of pending petitions for reconsideration and applications for review by 24 percent. The Media Bureau alone has reduced the number of petitions for reconsideration and applications for review pending more than two years by 43 percent.

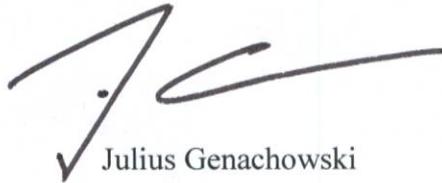
Further, there are items, such as indecency complaints, which are currently out of the Commission's control. Ninety-nine percent of all consumer complaints pending more than two years cannot be resolved by Commission while courts consider the indecency issues.

Finally, through a diligent effort involving all of the Bureaus and Offices a significant number of stale dockets were closed. The number of open dockets has been reduced by 43 percent and the number of dockets with no filings in over 5 years has been reduced by 89 percent.

Page 2—The Honorable Greg Walden

As our efforts show, the Commission has continued to make great improvement in addressing its backlog. We must continue to improve and I remain committed to continuing our efforts to reduce the Commission's backlog.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 10, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stearns:

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on the workload of the Commission.

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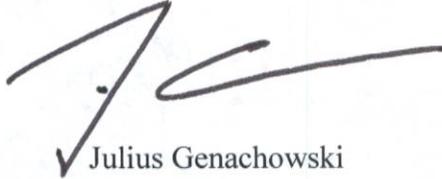
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Page 2—The Honorable Cliff Stearns

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Julius Genachowski

## Attachment

There is growing consensus that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) processes need to be reformed. Under both Democratic and Republican chairmen, the FCC has fallen into practices that weaken decision-making and jeopardize public confidence. The data reported to the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Committee) in July 2011 demonstrated that there have been substantial improvements in the handling of the Commission’s workload since Chairman Genachowski joined the Commission. Nevertheless, the Commission still faces significant challenges in its work, including a significant backlog of unanswered petitions and unheard consumer complaints. For example, the Commission had 5,328 petitions, more than a million consumer complaints, and 4,185 license applications that had been sitting for more than two years as of July 2011. This letter seeks updated data regarding the FCC’s current workflow.

1. To help the Committee better understand the FCC's current workload and backlog, please provide the total number of items currently pending. Please include all petitions, applications, complaints, and requests pending before the FCC, including petitions for waiver, petitions for stay, petitions for declaratory ruling, applications for license renewal, applications for transfer of lines, applications for review, requests for review, etc. Please categorize these items by the Bureau primarily responsible for action and the amount of time that has elapsed since each item was filed with the FCC using the following table.

	< 6 mos.	6 mos. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. - 5 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
Consumer & Gov't (CGB)	11,145	2,222	593	651
International (IB)	245	84	25	13
Media (MB)	3,316	2,128	1,315	1,158
Public Safety (PSHSB)	57	65	47	40
Wireless (WTB)	118	189	161	22
Wireline (WCB)	210	484	439	304
Enforcement (EB)	876	599	187	13
Other (OET, OSP, etc.)	580	29	15	1

2. License applications, and especially renewals, are often a routine process. How many license applications and renewals are currently pending at the Commission? Please categorize these items by the Bureau primarily responsible for action and the amount of time that has elapsed since each item was filed with the FCC using the following table.

License Applications and Renewals	< 6 mos.	6 mos. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. – 5 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
Consumer & Gov't (CGB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
International (IB)	48	3	5	0
Media (MB)	3,213	1,921	918	1,020
Public Safety (PSHSB)	4,569	195	18	2
Wireless (WTB)	11,941	3,160	1,542	445
Wireline (WCB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other (OET, OSP, etc.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. We understand that the Commission receives thousands of complaints from consumers each year. We are interested in how the Commission processes these complaints, and the subject matter of these complaints. Please provide the number of complaints currently pending before the FCC. Please categorize these items by the Bureau primarily responsible for action, the amount of time that has elapsed since each item was filed with the FCC and the subject matter of the complaint using the following tables.

	< 6 mos.	6 mos. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. - 5 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
Consumer & Gov't (CGB)	11,100	1,984	301	0
International (IB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Media (MB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Safety (PSHSB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wireless (WTB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wireline (WCB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enforcement (EB)	19,006	163,664	554,287	751,675
Other (OET, OSP, etc.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	< 6 mos.	6 mos. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. – 5 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
Indecency	18,791	163,203	553,392	751,641
TV/FM/AM Radio	18,791	163,203	553,392	751,641
Indecency - Safe Harbor	0	0	0	0
Indecency - Cable	0	0	0	0
Junk Fax	222	447	751	34
Slamming	173	259	177	0
TCPA (Non-Junk Fax)	142	117	121	0

4. By definition, a petition for reconsideration or an application for review asks the FCC to reconsider a decision it has already made. As such, the FCC should be able to review and act on such petitions and applications relatively quickly. Moreover, parties often cannot obtain judicial review of an FCC decision while a petition for reconsideration or application for review is pending. How many petitions for reconsideration and applications for review are current pending at the Commission? Please categorize these items by the Bureau primarily responsible for action and the amount of time that has elapsed since each item was filed with the FCC using the following table.

	< 6 mos.	6 mos. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. - 5 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
Consumer & Gov't (CGB)	0	7	10	5
International (IB)	3	3	7	10
Media (MB)	72	149	218	158
Public Safety (PSHSB)	28	9	5	20
Wireless (WTB)	51	46	52	4
Wireline (WCB)	4	21	37	67
Enforcement Bureau (EB)	5	11	9	1
Other (OET, OSP, etc.)	5	12	13	1

5. How many dockets are currently open at the Commission? How many of these dockets have pending items in them that the Commission has not yet addressed? How many dockets have been inactive for more than six months? Two years? Five years?

Total Open Dockets	1,978
Dockets without filings for more than six months	1,475
Dockets without filings for more than two years	1,023
Dockets without filings for more than five years	308