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March 3, 2006

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senator
340 Russell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator DeMint:

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 2113, the Digital Age Communications Act. I have long been an advocate for telecommunications reform that actually supports competition in the market and reduces the dependence on Universal Service funding. The Digital Age Communications Act (DACA) is a tremendous piece of work. I applaud you in your efforts to create debate for these difficult and controversial reforms.

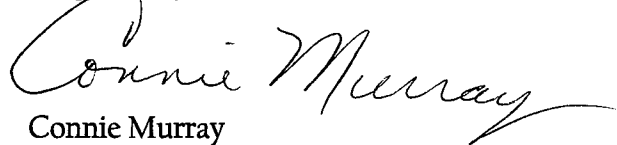
I have served for almost nine years on the Missouri Public Service Commission and have been working with the 1996 Telecommunications Act since its inception. It is obvious that the 1996 Act has failed, and instead has created a regulatory framework that does not address the existing marketplace and its constantly changing form. Existing law only serves to inhibit the widespread deployment of new technologies, causing this country to fall behind in the global marketplace.

Senate Bill 2113 is also innovative in its reform of the Universal Service Funding mechanism that currently serves more to support the profit margins of rural telecommunications companies than to provide universal reach of telecommunications technology. The Universal Service remedy has become an unnecessary entitlement to these companies and it is about time that we make changes to limit the growth and abuse of the Fund.

The Honorable Jim DeMint
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Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Digital Age Communications Act. I will remain a voice for change amongst my colleagues and a proponent of your efforts in Congress.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Murray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Connie Murray
Commissioner

Cc: The Honorable Jim Talent
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher S. (Kit) Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
House of Representatives
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