



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Caroline O'Reilly, 202/659-5990

**OPASTCO PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY CONFIRMATION OF  
GENACHOWSKI AS NEW FCC CHAIRMAN AND  
FCC COMMISSIONER MCDOWELL'S RECONFIRMATION**

*New FCC Administration Brings Hope for Progress in Critical Telecom Policy Areas*

WASHINGTON – The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) today applauded the Senate's confirmation of Julius Genachowski as the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the re-confirmation of FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell to another term.

“If our country is to have a national broadband plan that ensures a robust broadband network for consumers everywhere, we need an FCC Chairman who has the government, business and technology experiences necessary to navigate between the practical and the politics. Julius Genachowski appears to be just such a person,” OPASTCO President John Rose stated. “We look forward to working with him and his FCC on today's critical telecom issues, such as universal service and intercarrier compensation reform, and on a forward-looking national broadband plan that meets the needs of consumers and ensures our country can compete in the global marketplace.”

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**Note to Editors:**

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) represents nearly 530 small, independently owned, local telecommunications companies serving primarily rural areas of the United States and Canada. OPASTCO membership includes both commercial companies and cooperatives, which range in size from fewer than 100 to 100,000 access lines, and collectively serve more than 5.5 million customers. OPASTCO represents rural telecommunications interests before federal regulatory bodies and Congress, provides publications, and holds two conventions annually in January and July of each year, addressing the needs of the small telecommunications industry. The association has an affiliate 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED). Visit the OPASTCO Website at [www.opastco.org](http://www.opastco.org).