



November 18, 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Voice on the Net Coalition ([www.von.org](http://www.von.org)), a member-supported, nonprofit trade association of IP communications service providers, writes today to express its appreciation for the hearing addressing the important issues presented by the transition of our communications networks from TDM to IP technology. This transition brings with it substantial opportunities for innovation and competition, as well as numerous benefits for consumers. The VON Coalition's members are a part of the industry that is driving this change forward, and believe that the transition should continue to be driven by market forces, rather than by regulatory mandate.

*The IP Transition Has Already Begun.* The FCC's most recent Local Telephone Competition Report, containing data current through June 30, 2012, indicates that 28% of the 141 million retail wireline telephone service connections in the United States are served by VoIP technology. This tremendous growth has taken place, in part, because of the light touch federal regulatory structure established by the FCC.

*The Transition Has Been, And Should Continue To Be, Driven By The Market.* The transition to IP communications has been driven by many factors, including, most importantly, the widespread availability of broadband, advances in technology, the surging number of service providers, lower prices and better functionality. Customers expect new and innovative services that are only possible using IP technology, and the industry has responded accordingly. In the absence of market failure, additional regulatory intervention is unnecessary. Competition is clearly important to the Subcommittee, and VON would note that the tremendous growth of IP communications for both residential and enterprise customers, demonstrates that the market in its current form is highly competitive – and additional government action is not required.



November 18, 2013  
Page 2

The VON Coalition thanks you for your attention to these important issues. For more information, please contact me at (202) 663-8215 or [glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn S. Richards", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn S. Richards  
Executive Director  
Voice on the Net Coalition