

JOHN McCAIN  
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

April 13, 2010

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The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Napolitano and Chairman Genachowski:

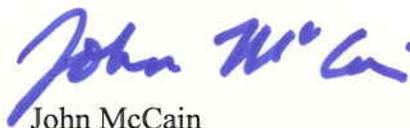
As you may know, I have been gravely concerned with the continued and growing violence along our border with Mexico. Media reports have indicated that a lack of reliable radio and cellular service have continued to contribute to the delay in responding to incidents along the border, such as the sighting by Arizona residents of illegal entries into our country. Many of the families and ranchers that live along the Arizona-Mexico border remain afraid for their security and frustrated at the lack of reliable cell phone service available in case of an emergency.

For this reason, I am writing to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) work together with the major cellular service providers that serve the border area, AT&T, Inc. and Verizon Wireless, to assist them in providing robust service to border residents. I have spoken with representatives of each of these companies and they have expressed concern about the great costs associated with serving these rural areas. I believe it is important for your agencies to do what you can to alleviate cost as a factor when the safety of our citizens and security of the border is at stake.

Some have suggested that the carriers could co-locate on DHS facilities along the border to reduce the costs associated with serving this vast, desert terrain. Additionally, there are often difficult international coordination issues that must be negotiated with the Mexican government related to interoperability and phone service. I welcome any ideas or suggestions on how to ensure that the residents of the southwest border region have access to robust cellular phone service.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We must make the security of our borders one of our top national security priorities. I know you share my interest in ensuring that Arizonans can feel safe and protected on their own property and not live in fear of the increasing violence along our southern border.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senate