‘Broadband’ is a relative term and it stands to reason that what was considered broadband in the early years of commercial internet access would be considered laughable by today’s standards. Despite the relative nature of the term, it makes sense for the U.S. government to establish a federal standard because of its inherent interest in, and jurisdiction over, interstate commerce – and the interrelated nature of the internet, including the complex multi-channel pathways that data packets are transmitted makes the industry intrinsically interstate. That’s not to say the standard should remain static and immovable; but the standard for broadband should be progressive and evolve as the technological limitations and commercially available systems do. They should not regress, and should certainly not regress to the point that the standard becomes a farce. Once the consumer becomes accustomed to a specific data transmission rate as the minimum standard for what broadband is, for what his or her internet service bill must deliver based on the terms of service, it does a great disservice to the market to reduce that rate. It makes more sense for services fast enough to be broadband today, to no longer be considered fast enough for broadband in five years, than for services too slow to be considered broadband a year ago to be able to bill itself as broadband next year.

Please do not dilute the meaning of broadband by lowering the minimum bandwidth levels to such a low standard. The Federal Communications Commission is too important and august a body to play rope-a-dope with the consumers it is designed to protect and the industry it regulates.