

CITY OF RAYMOND

November 15, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Access for Small Businesses

Dear Mr. Chairman:

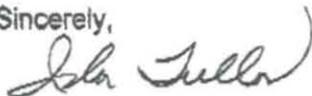
The Internet offers unparalleled resources for businesses. For mid to small towns such as Raymond, Mississippi, these resources have barely been tapped. I understand that currently, only 35% of small businesses have websites. Websites allow businesses to reach the global market. No other medium has this potential.

The small businesses in our area that do not have access to the internet are foregoing advantageous marketing opportunities by not being able to participate fully in the world of e-commerce.

For Mississippi, small businesses account for nearly all of the businesses that operate in our rural towns and communities. The argument is plausible that due to a lack of broadband internet access, they will continue to have higher rates of failure or at the very least find themselves at a tremendous disadvantage to remain competitive.

The cost of Broadband has continued to diminish nationwide and yet the fact that there remains a cost is reason we along with others are seeking relief. Please review the plan that is before the FCC and help mayors such as me provide additional opportunities to our citizens.

Sincerely,



Mayor Isla Tullos
Raymond MS

CC: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman Chip Pickering
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau

A PLACE OF HISTORY, A PLACE IN THE HEART, A PLACE OF PROMISE

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