



**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**MARK MAHONEY  
ALDERMAN — WARD 6**

December 14, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room #8B-201  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Internet Access for our Economy

Chairman Martin:

With many proposals that are brought before our city council we have to view each initiative with the many perspectives ranging from the economic impact to our businesses to how it can impact our schools.

The Federal Communications Commission is currently holding a proposal that would grant free universal broadband to all Americans. From the perspective of the small businesses to our schools this proposal would benefit the entire community.

Granting free broadband to the entire community could greatly enhance the education that is provided by our schools. Every one of our students deserves the opportunity to have increased access to the world of opportunity that exists through the Internet.

Small business owners face many challenges in making their businesses succeed. Unfortunately, many of them, especially those just starting out don't dedicate precious resources to internet access.

Small business owners need the internet for an array of daily activities, including marketing. The internet is especially valuable to companies like retailers. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year alone, internet retail sales totaled \$26.3 billion. Those who are unable to get affordable internet access forego valuable opportunities and potential revenue.

For the students, teachers, small businesses and the entire community I hope your commission will support the proposal that will grant free universal broadband to everyone.

Sincerely,

*Mark Mahoney*

Mark Mahoney  
Alderman Ward 6

CC: Commissioner Capps  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Tate  
Commissioner McDowell  
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch  
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau  
Senator Durbin  
Senator Obama  
Representative Shimkus