



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Scott A. Randolph

District 36

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March 27, 2007

Commissioner Kevin Martin
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554
Via Fax: 1-866-418-0232

RE: Docket # 07-16

Dear Commissioner Martin,

It has come to my attention that a petition is before the FCC that would provide free and affordable internet access to nearly every household in the country within a decade. The availability of a WiFi network would provide considerable benefits for my constituents in Florida's State House District 36 in Orlando, Florida and I urge you to consider this petition.

As you know the lack of affordable internet access places low-income families at a severe disadvantage. It is estimated that 41% of students come from homes with annual incomes of less than \$20,000.00. Such a significant plurality of students in our nation with little or no access to the internet does not bode well for the future of our nation as we move towards a more connected world. A national free WiFi network would do much to close this gap and continue the upward mobility that our nation has had for generations.

In the private sector, the benefits of a national free WiFi are even greater. According to the International Telework Association and Council, 45 million people currently work from home and this number is expected to grow exponentially in the coming year. Small businesses make up 99% of all businesses in the country and 57% of them use the internet for business-related

activities. Free WiFi will increase the competitive edge these companies have and allow for more companies to compete in the global marketplace, keeping our economy thriving in the process.

Also, the ability to go online and connect to information about their local, state and federal government is of particular concern to me. Increasingly, elected officials are relying upon internet communications to keep their constituents updated on important legislation affecting their lives. Email correspondence is a very efficient and affordable means for elected officials to keep in contact with, and accountable to, those who elected them.

Furthermore, our schools, first-responders, libraries, and community centers would greatly benefit from a free wireless network that filters out questionable material and connects citizens to needed services. The United States is far behind other countries in offering access to broadband internet and the proposal before you would close the digital divide for millions of Americans. I strongly urge you to approve this proposal.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'S. Randolph', enclosed within a hand-drawn rectangular box.

Representative Scott Randolph
Florida State House District 36

c.c. Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
Fred Campbell, Wireless Bureau Chief
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Mel Martinez
Congressman Ric Keller
Congressman Tom Feeney
Congresswoman Corrine Brown