



**The GROWTH
ASSOCIATION**
of Southwestern Illinois
Serving the River Bend

April 24, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th SW
Washington, DC 20554

Via Fax 1-866-418-0232

Chairman Martin:

The Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois believes you should grant favorable consideration to a proposal by M2Z that would allow them to establish a free broadband internet system across the country. Presently there are still 114 million Americans who are completely unconnected to the Internet or have to rely on dial up.

Not only is the deployment of broadband critical to the rural medical, educational, business community but the entire community as a whole would benefit by having access to a free broadband system. Competition and active participation in today's vigorous new economy requires not only a computer, but also high-speed, high-capacity (broadband) access to information and data on the Internet.

While the Internet is changing the world economy, technology experts say, large parts of rural America are losing out on jobs, economic development and civic participation because of inadequate access to the Internet. Traversing vast expanses of remote and often rugged topography presents unique financial and technological barriers and M2Z's proposal seems to be a strong effort to meet this challenge.

Innovation built the Internet and innovation will keep it growing and expanding. Please give M2Z the opportunity to make their plan work and contribute to the Internet for the betterment of all citizens here in Illinois and across the country.

Sincerely,


Monica J. Bristow, President

CC: Secretary Marlene Dortch
Commissioners: Copps, Adelstein, Tate, McDowell
Senator Durbin
Senator Obama