

May 29, 2007

Julie Halcomb
2 Cherry Dr
Rochester, IL 62563-9707

Dear Kevin Martin,

One of the greatest opportunities small and independent businesses have to achieve their entrepreneurial goals is harnessing the power of the Internet. Unfortunately, while small and independent businesses account for 99% of all American businesses, only 57% currently use the Internet for business related activities. Even fewer have high-speed connectivity, and 65% do not have company Web sites.

One of the major roadblocks between small business entrepreneurs and e-commerce is price. Current prices for broadband in the United States are among the highest in the world. Today's entrepreneurs must make difficult monthly choices regarding where to focus their resources.

Our nation must ensure that all American entrepreneurs, including small business owners, have affordable access to broadband for e-commerce and daily businesses operations. This will help small businesses take advantage of online marketing opportunities, help keep America's economy strong and competitive and bridge the digital divide that now separates too many Americans simply because of where they live and their economic circumstances.

Implementation of a proposal now before the FCC to provide a free, fast, and family friendly universal broadband access program, such as the one submitted by M2Z Networks (www.m2znetworks.com) and supported by the Coalition for Free Broadband Now, is a necessary step to help make free Internet service a reality for all Americans, including small business entrepreneurs. I urge you to take action now to ensure these necessary steps are taken!

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Sincerely,

Julie Halcomb

CC: Michael Copps
Jonathan Adelstein
Deborah Taylor Tate
Robert McDowell
Representative Shimkus
Senator Durbin
Senator Obama