

March 1, 2007

Edward Jones
1 Peyton Place SW
Atlanta, GA 30311-1608

Dear Kevin Martin,

Free Broadband in America offers numerous opportunities to all facets of our society. I feel that the greatest impact would be felt in what I call the "left behind" areas; under-funded school districts and lower income neighborhoods. As popular as internet service is, it is still an extra expense that a vast number of people are unable to afford. Already strapped school districts sacrifice other necessities in efforts to ensure they have internet (and all of the equipment associated with it), just to create a semblance of equality in educational opportunities. I am usually one of the first to say that I learned under the old way, without much internet assistance. With the way we now emphasize speed and exceleration of learning, it is very difficult to gain a foothold if the field is unequal. Competition in education for students is ever-increasing, with many students feeling that compared to others they do not stand a chance.

In as much as free broadband internet would not be the ultimate fix to our nation's problems in education, it would definitely reduce financial burdens for a number of people in many situations. Most importantly, it would give many under-exposed children access to resources that could help trigger a new desire to succeed in education. Georgia needs this. The South needs this. Our nation needs this.

Sincerely,

Edward J. V. Jones
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Cc: Secretary Jackson
Michael Copps
Jonathan Adelstein
Deborah Taylor Tate
Robert McDowell
Representative Lewis
Senator Chambliss
Senator Isakson