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April 17, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Free, Fast, Family-Friendly Internet Service

Mrs. Secretary,

As a consumer advocacy organization that also strives to defend the basic principles of our democracy, I urge you to approve the proposal brought forth by M2Z networks that would create a free wireless network across the country. In much the same way that consumers enjoy free access to public TV and radio channels, a free, accessible internet is vital to a healthy democracy and a vibrant economy.

A reliable and free wireless network is clearly in the best interest of the American public. With free internet access to engage in e-commerce and online marketing, small businesses would be on a much more level playing field with their larger competitors. Citizens would become more informed about local, state and national politics through online information, thus increasing the level of civic participation in our communities. Teachers and students would be able to access up to date research and resources online and low-income students could catch up to their counterparts who already use the internet for help with homework and studies. Lastly, in the state of Florida, a reliable, wireless network would prove invaluable to emergency teams who respond in times of disaster such as tornadoes and hurricanes.

It is a shame that the U.S. has fallen so short in offering wireless internet access to its citizens. Please reverse this trend and approve docket no. 7-16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Ashwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink.

Brad Ashwell
Public Interest Advocate

CC: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioners: Copps, Adelstein, Tate, McDowell
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Mel Martinez