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June 30, 2007

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

Dear Mrs. Secretary,

I am writing you today as an elected official of my local political party and as a longtime political professional involved in communication and mobilization of voters with a simple request: Please support a public-private approach to deliver free nationwide, wireless broadband access.

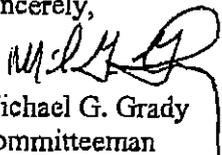
The Internet is literally changing the world we live in. 15 years ago, when I began my career in politics, I had never experienced e-mail. Today, not only does the Internet provide e-mail to free for anyone who wants it, but it is fast becoming the single largest engine of political communication and participatory politics ever before seen. From blogs, to audio streaming, to downloading and access of campaign position papers – the Internet is the new town hall.

While I consider this to be an important development – there is a dark side to this progress. Full capability of the new tools of Democracy emerging on the Internet require access that allows for easy downloading, and ability to stream large amounts of information through the web. As the Internet begins to increasingly dominate our political discourse, we will gradually see the unintended consequence of blocking people from real participation in their government based on their ability to access broadband service.

The citizens of Illinois, and the nation, would benefit from an increasing commitment to provide broadband access in the same way we provide roads and bridges. The Internet really is the information super “highway”, and we all have a responsibility to provide equal access for the betterment of all citizens.

Please support a public private approach, and consider all proposals for delivering free, nationwide, wireless broadband service.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Grady
Committeeman
Sangamon County Democratic Party
Chatham, Illinois

CC: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioners: Copps, Adelstein, Tate, McDowell
Senator Durbin
Senator Obama