

Protecting Our Water Environment

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Terrance J. O'Brien
President
Kathleen Therese Meany
Vice President
Gloria Alitto Majewski
Chairman of Finance
Frank Avila
Patricia Horton
Barbara J. McGowan
Cynthia M. Santos
Debra Shore
Patricia Young

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 EAST ERIE STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3154 312-751-5600

Kathleen Therese Meany
Vice President

June 27, 2007

312-751-5646 FAX 312-751-5763

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

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I have read that there is a proposal pending before the Federal Communications Commission that would grant free universal broadband to all communities. As an elected public servant with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) this would be a great service in the fight to maintain a safe environment and a healthy water supply.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater operates seven sewage treatment plants in Chicago and 125 municipalities. The District collects and treats the wastewater from more than five million people and the industrial equivalent of another 4.5 million people each day. The District also operates the Deep Tunnel Project to collect and treat sewer overflows, and provides storm water management for all of Cook County.

As a governmental agency responsible for providing clean water to the Chicagoland area it is critical to keep partners aware of policies and activities impacting this resource. It is imperative that local elected officials are kept abreast of policy issues impacting their water supply. Also, instant communication can be critical when it comes to threats to the environment and our water supply. Web based communication is a quick efficient manner to convey our message.

Many residents of the area we serve have limited or no access to internet services. Free universal broadband would increase the ability of the District to communicate with the public and officials any threats to clean water and the environment.

I urge you to support the proposal to provide free broadband. Providing free broadband access would increase the dialogue with the public with regards to environmental protection. Free broadband would also help increase participation in District programs such as proper disposal of hazardous household waste which had been previously been discharged indiscriminately into the sewer system. All at no cost to the taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Therese Meany
Commissioner/Vice President

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