

*Former Congressman Bill Cobey*

203 Oval Park Place

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

August 29, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room #8B-201  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Martin,

Small and independent businesses make up 99% of all American companies, providing as much as 80% of the net new job growth in our country. One of the critical tools needed to help small businesses in our country succeed is reliable access to the internet.

Unfortunately, broadband providers across the country have chosen not to expand access to many rural areas and small communities. Only 5% of towns with 10,000 or fewer people have broadband availability. The impact this has on entrepreneurs cannot be underestimated, as they lack the services provided by the internet that can help them prosper.

Docket # 07-16, currently before the FCC, details a plan to help millions in our country receive access to fast, free, reliable broadband internet access. This innovative plan will provide coverage to 95% of Americans within the next decade, ensuring that regardless of where they are located, our nation's small businesses have the tools needed to make them more efficient.

Chairman Martin, I urge you to support this proposal to ensure that American companies of all sizes have the ability to compete. By allowing this unique public-private partnership to proceed, you will be bringing forth a new era of connectivity for our citizens that have been denied access to fast, free, reliable broadband.

Sincerely,



Bill Cobey  
Chairman,  
NC Republican Party, 1999-2003

CC: FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch  
Commissioner Copps  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Tate  
Commissioner McDowell  
Wireless Bureau Chief Fred Campbell  
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole  
U.S. Senator Richard Burr  
Congressman David Price