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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

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MAY 19 2008

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter in support of the application of NetfreeUS, LLC (NetfreeUS) for use of spectrum in the 2155-2175 MHz band. On March 2, 2007, NetfreeUS filed its application and a related petition for forbearance in WT Docket No. 07-16 and WT Docket No. 07-30. These filings remain pending. A copy of your letter and this response will be placed in both dockets.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. Martin".

Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
 ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEES  
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 DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE:  
 COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR  
 http://www.house.gov/pallone

FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
 8TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515-3008

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April 19, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
 Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket Nos. 07-16 and 07-30

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Federal Communications Commission to give swift consideration to the many applications pending to provide universal broadband access for all Americans.

The need for all Americans to have access to high-speed, affordable broadband service is of the most important issues facing our nation. The U.S. is the country that invented the Internet. However, it has fallen to 16th in the world in broadband penetration. More so, there is evidence that access exists among the wealthier of Americans, and a "digital divide" exists. I am concerned that the US broadband infrastructure is lacking and I believe that more spectrum allocations for commercial use would mean more broadband options for consumers.

I would like to specifically reference the application and pleadings by NetfreeUS. The NetfreeUS goal is to facilitate free Wireless Public Broadband (WPB) throughout the United States through the building of an entrepreneurial wireless community. Their approach, also known as a "public commons" type network is not built and controlled by a single operator but by local small businessmen, individuals and municipalities. Their service will also be completely free, with no "for-pay" service at all. NetFreeUS would act as the "manager of a nationwide 'public commons' system to provide free and competitive broadband service, which is how our public radio and television industry was built and still operates today.

The NetfreeUS application is distinguished by its non-reliance on new expensive proprietary equipment and the use of the best open source software based solutions making it inexpensive to utilize and build the network. Moreover, the revenues from the 5% revenue "tax" would be a cash annuity for the U.S. Treasury for years to come as opposed to a one time "lump sum" payment.

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I hope to see the FCC take quick action to consider NetfreeUS's application on its merits. I believe that making spectrum available for a nationwide broadband service should be the FCC's top priority.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE,  
Member of Congress

cc: Michael J. Copps, Commissioner  
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner  
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner  
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner  
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary

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