



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 3, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication

Notice of Ex Parte Communication in the Matter of WC Docket 07-38 (Broadband Data Collection), WC Docket No. 05-337 (High-Cost Universal Service Support), and CC Docket No. 06-45 (Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Services)

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On July 2, 2008 and July 3, 2008 Raquel Noriega and Laura Taylor of Connected Nation, Inc., in separate meetings, met with Kirk Burgee, Randy Clarke, and Alex Minard of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Amy Bender of the Office of Chairman Martin, and John Hunter of the Office of Commissioner McDowell regarding the above referenced proceedings. The positions expressed by Connected Nation during these meetings were consistent with Connected Nation's publicly filed comments and filings in the above-referenced dockets.

For over four years, Connected Nation has been on the forefront of a movement by state and local leaders to identify areas without broadband service and to identify and implement aggressive demand-side programs that are designed to increase broadband adoption and deployment. As a result, Connected Nation welcomes recent efforts by the Commission to improve data it collects on broadband services, and we commend the Commission for its recent *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in WC Docket No. 07-38, FCC 08-89, which greatly improves the quality of broadband subscriber data gathered by the Commission.

However, Connected Nation urges that the Commission's proposed broadband mapping program not unwittingly hamper or undermine broadband initiatives that are being undertaken by state and local governments, particularly through public-private partnerships that work to increase both broadband availability and adoption.

In our meetings, we also discussed Connected Nation's Comments in WC Docket No. 05-337 and CC Docket No. 96-45, filed on April 17, 2008. Connected Nation reiterated its support for the Joint Board's recommendation to encourage state-level broadband availability mapping programs and we also urged that the Commission also encourage broadband demand stimulation programs. Stated simply, local demand-side programs will drive broadband deployment further into currently unserved areas and also will help identify areas that truly need subsidies. For these reasons, requiring that demand-stimulation programs be in place as a condition of any grant from the proposed Broadband Fund, or qualifying expenditures on such programs as matching funds, will help ensure the fiscal responsibility of the proposed Broadband Fund.

In accordance with section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed via the Commission's Electronic Filing System in each of the above referenced dockets. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

s/Laura Taylor
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www.connectednation.org

cc:

Kirk Burgee, FCC
Randy Clarke, FCC
Alex Minard, FCC
Amy Bender, FCC
John Hunter, FCC