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July 2, 2008

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am pleased with the recent news that the FCC will be considering plans to establish a 'FREE LIFELINE BROADBAND' Service. My understanding is that the FCC will vote on this issue on July 29, 2008 and hope that the FCC approves this proposal without further delay.

As you might already know, Rainbow PUSH is an enthusiastic and longtime supporter of this concept. We have been an advocate for bridging the digital divide and providing access to the Internet and technology to all communities. Our position was outlined earlier in a brief we filed to the FCC, which you have on record. Over 100 million Americans, mostly minorities do not have broadband at home: **70%** of Americans living in households earning less than \$30,000 a year *do not* have broadband at home. **60%** of African Americans *do not* have broadband at home. **71%** of Latinos *do not* have broadband at home. **69%** of Americans living in rural areas *do not* have broadband. This is why we need a safety net.

Rainbow PUSH is not alone and is joining hands with the hundreds of elected officials, membership organizations like National PTA and the thousands of consumers that have called for a free nationwide broadband service. I hope you will concur with me on these critical issues. As always I remain available to speak with you in greater depth if you need further information. Please continue with your good work and help expand broadband availability to ALL Americans.

Sincerely,

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson
President and Founder
Rainbow PUSH Coalition