



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

August 22, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication in the Matter of WC Docket 07-38  
(Broadband Data Collection)

Dear Chairman Martin:

The State of Ohio recently embarked upon an initiative to expand broadband and improve technology adoption. This initiative, Connect Ohio, is a public-private partnership made up of the State, broadband service providers, regional technology groups, economic development organizations, and local leaders in every Ohio county.

In June, Connect Ohio publicly released its initial statewide broadband inventory map, along with data on computer and Internet use and findings regarding barriers to use. Local leaders in all 88 Ohio counties will use this broadband map, in concert with the extensive consumer data, to develop and integrate strategic technology plans to fill Ohio's broadband gaps, improve technology literacy, and bridge the digital divide.

We are also distributing new computers to low-income children through the No Child Left Offline program. Private sector donors continue to step up and support this important effort.

I understand that the Federal Communications Commission is considering its role in the process of mapping broadband infrastructure. I welcome this initiative, because I know we share the common goal of bringing critical broadband infrastructure to every one of our citizens. And, in your consideration, I urge you to work with, facilitate, and encourage public-private partnerships like Connect Ohio. These programs are taking hold and proving to be an effective method of achieving the goal of ubiquitous broadband that we share.

Connect Ohio's state-based broadband maps are critical to the program's success. The accuracy and usefulness of these maps depend upon our ability to work with broadband providers, community leaders, and consumers through a collaborative process whereby we help each other build, verify, and update the maps. A federal program that works with and supports state-based broadband mapping through public-private partnerships would be a solutions-oriented approach to national broadband mapping.

Page 2  
Chairman Martin  
August 22, 2008

I am encouraged by proposed Congressional legislation to enable and extend resources for public-private partnerships in every state. It is my hope that the Federal Communications Commission will unite in this effort to enable state-based, grassroots-driven broadband mapping and technology expansion for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Strickland  
Governor

cc:

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Marlene Dortch, Secretary