



**Catawba County  
Economic Development Corporation**

October 28, 2008

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

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposed order that could dramatically alter the cost and availability of rural telecommunications and broadband in North Carolina; furthermore, the FCC vote is currently set for November 4 – a day of civic duty in the United States.

Among other things, the proposal would undercut broadband investment by eliminating billions of dollars in funding that rural providers use currently to build and maintain broadband infrastructure in rural America. In addition to putting the goal of universal broadband availability further away for many communities, such an approach could lead to additional unemployment and market instability in the telecommunications industry.

Given the gravity of these issues and our trying economic times, it is unfortunate the actual order has not been made available for public comment, and that the FCC vote is scheduled for a day when members of Congress and their constituents are rightly focused on electing our nation's leaders.

I want to urge you in the strongest possible terms not to proceed with the issues in the proposed order, before allowing for public comment. In this way, we can all learn about both the merits and drawbacks of the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President, Catawba County EDC

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

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