



Connecting North Carolina to a Better Future

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FCC Mail Room

Oppie N. Jordan
Chair

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

WC Docket Nos: 05-337; 03-109; 06-122

CC Docket Nos: 96-45; 01-92; 99-68

96-98; 99-200; 04-36

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Dear Commissioner Martin:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a proposed order on intercarrier compensation and universal service that could dramatically alter the cost and availability of rural telecommunications and broadband in my state, and that the FCC vote is scheduled for November 4- Election Day 2008.

I serve as the chairperson of the e-NC Authority, appointed by the Governor of North Carolina. The e-NC Authority is a state-wide organization with a legislative mandate to see that high-speed internet access is available to citizens and business in the state of North Carolina. Please see our website at www.e-nc.org.

North Carolina has 100 counties and 85 of those counties are rural.

I am also a professional economic developer in one of the most rural areas of the State of North Carolina. My county currently has an unemployment rate of 11.5% and it is climbing due to these critical economic times. Many companies are not expanding and the lack of capital investment we are seeing is resulting in many projects being put on hold.

In today's knowledge economy, technology-led economic development is critical and is undergirded by the availability of high-speed broadband. This country, more than ever before, needs to remember that the affordability issue of telecommunications and having access to the most updated information will control our future growth.

While I am aware that the Commission is under a court order to address one narrow issue—the intercarrier rate for calls to dial-up Internet service providers—I want to strongly urge you not to proceed with the other issues in the vote scheduled November 4 and to put these issues out for public comment. We can then learn about the merits and drawbacks of the proposal with all parties having an opportunity to comment. The result of this extra time should work to the best interests of all.

Sincerely,

Oppie Jordan

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