

Minority Media and Telecommunications Council

3636 16th Street N.W. Suite B-366
Washington, D.C. 20010
Phone: 202-332-0500 Fax: 202-332-0503
www.mmtconline.org

April 30, 2009

Marlene Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication:

- GN Docket No. 09-29 (Rural Broadband Policy)
- GN Docket No. 09-40 (ARRA Consultation)
- GN Docket No. 09-51 (National Broadband Plan)

This reports on a meeting held April 28, 2008 at the request of the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM). NBCM and other national organizations filed comments in the NTIA/RUS ARRA proceeding, and NBCM subsequently joined the Broadband Diversity Supporters, which had filed comments with NTIA in that proceeding and with the FCC in GN Docket No. 09-40.

Those participating in the meeting were NBCM Executive Director Vanessa Williams, NBCM Director of Development Timothy McNeill, and myself. We met with WTB officials Christine Clearwater and Charles Mathias, WCB officials Claude Aiken, Ian Dillner, Denise Coca, Jonathan Reel and William Kehoe, and CGB officials Shana Barehand and Steve Klitzman. Attached are all of the documents we distributed. We made the following points:

- Mapping should be done at the street level to show social factors affecting broadband availability and adoption, including race, income, unemployment rate and language.
- States should develop public-private partnerships and broadband technology plans.
- The definition of “underserved” and “unserved” should take into account race, income, unemployment rate and language.
- The NBCM is developing best practices for municipalities in partnering with carriers, focused on how to develop partnerships with carriers.

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- Many rural NBCM mayors are working in statewide coalitions to put their communities in the forefront for BTOP and RUS funding priority.
- Regarding adoption, lack of access is a more critical barrier than unaffordability. However, affordability is a significant factor affecting initial subscriptions in rural and urban areas. Many low-income families cannot afford a \$100 initial deposit.

Respectfully submitted,

David Honig

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Executive Director

Counsel for the Broadband Diversity Supporters

Documents that were provided at the meeting:

1. GN Docket 09-40: BDS Summary (filed 4/13/09)
2. GN Docket 09-40: BDS Member List (as of 4/13/09 and filed that date)
3. NCBM et al. Comment, NTIA/RUS ARRA Proceeding (filed at NTIA 4/8/09)
4. NCBM Fact Sheet
5. NCBM Mission and History
6. NCBM Broadband Newsletter