Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

International Bureau

May 13, 2009

Osmond Borthwick
Director, Telecommunications Branch
Commerce Commission
44-52 The Terrace
PO Box 2351
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Dear Mr. Borthwick:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently engaged in an effort to understand better the current status of broadband deployment in the United States and around the world. New Zealand is among the global leaders in the deployment of broadband Internet service. We would like to request the Commerce Commission's assistance to learn more about developments in New Zealand's broadband Internet market.

Recent legislation in the United States, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, has charged the FCC with the important task of developing a national broadband strategy for the United States that will ensure that every American has access to broadband capability. On April 8, 2009, the FCC formally began its work on this project by adopting a Notice of Inquiry (NOI)[1] that seeks a wide range of input from the American public on how to make high-speed broadband available, affordable and easily useable to all of our citizens. The FCC must complete its work and deliver a plan to our Congress by February 17, 2010.

Another related piece of U.S. legislation is the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA). Among other requirements, the law directs the FCC to collect data for a comparison of broadband speeds and prices in localities outside the United States.[2] Improved data collection will help provide a factual underpinning to our development of a national broadband strategy. As we examine broadband developments internationally, we hope to learn from the experiences of others in meeting the shared challenge of delivering broadband to all of our citizens. While some national level data is available

[1] In the Matter of a National Broadband Plan for Our Future, Notice of Inquiry, GN Docket No. 09-51 (rel. April 8, 2009) available at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-31A1.pdf.

[2] *See* Comment Sought on International Comparison and Consumer Survey Requirements in the Broadband Data Improvement Act, Public Notice, GN Docket No. 09-47 (rel. March 31, 2009) available at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-741A1.pdf.

through institutions like the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), we are interested in obtaining broadband data at more granular levels – for example, by city, county, state, province or prefecture. Similarly, we are interested in demographic and socioeconomic data at comparable unit levels.

As we work to collect data under the BDIA and develop our national broadband strategy, we would be grateful for any broadband data and related information that the Commerce Commission could share with us in our efforts to improve our understanding of broadband deployment and subscribership. Members of my staff will be in contact with Mr. Anthony Morris to discuss this request further. We look forward to cooperating with the Commerce Commission and other regulatory agencies around the world in our examination of these important issues.

Thank you for considering our request and for any assistance Commerce Commission may be able to offer.

Sincerely,

John Giusti
Acting Chief, International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

CC: Anthony Morris, Chief Adviser, Telecommunications Branch