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against defamati

Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

June 4, 2009

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

At the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) we are dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Part of how we pursue our mission is to organize and communicate using the Internet. Our website, www.glaad.org, is designed to serve our constituents and help create the tools necessary to change hearts & minds about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. We view universal high-speed Internet access as critical to serving the needs of our community and would like to see it deployed to every corner of the United States.

Since we concentrate on ensuring a fair, accurate and inclusive representation of LGBT people and events in the media, we are primarily concerned that positive representations of our community make their way to as many people as possible. In order to accomplish this, the FCC, when constructing its National Broadband Plan, must concentrate on providing access to those who are currently unserved. Not only will the unserved benefit from improved access to favorable media coverage of the LGBT community, but they will also benefit from the multitude of benefits that high speed internet offers like access to telemedicine, online education, and civic and employment opportunities.

Our website is a tremendous resource both to the members we serve as well as the larger community that wants a better understanding of the LGBT community. We would like to see more people gain access to the content we produce in addition to the many positive representations of LGBT people. The best way to accomplish this goal is for the FCC to draft a plan that will deliver access to unserved populations as its top priority.

The FCC should keep our mission in mind as it formulates the National Broadband Plan – please “serve your constituents and help create the tools necessary” to achieve all that can be achieved through a high-speed Internet connection. With this mission in mind we believe high speed Internet will transform an already fast moving society into one that is not only fast, but sensitive to the concepts of fairness and inclusiveness as homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation are purged from our culture.

Sincerely,

Neil G. Giuliano
President

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