



A D V A N C I N G E Q U A L I T Y

May 28, 2009

Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell

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

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

The Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation. In accomplishing its mission, AAJC focuses its work to promote civic engagement, to forge strong and safe communities, and to create an inclusive society in communities on a local, regional, and national Asian Americans, as well as all Americans.

AAJC has drafted and filed comments under the Broadband Diversity Supporters submission "Initial Comments Of The Broadband Diversity Supporters Before The FCC Regarding A National Broadband Plan For Our Future"; however, AAJC did want to provide an additional comment concerning the importance that the FCC adopt policies that maintain the current level of private sector investment and it fosters an environment where the private sector has incentives to continue its level of investments.

As the FCC develops a national broadband plan as a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we urge the Commission to consider policies that will bring broadband to all Americans. This strategy marks an opportunity to correct inequities in broadband deployment and lower barriers for adoption. It is long overdue that all Americans gain access to next-generation technology and the benefits that it provides.

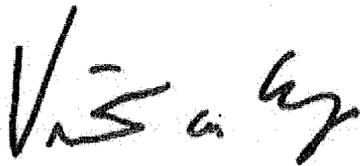
In recent years, a home broadband connection has become an important tool for civic engagement. Americans use the Internet to find news on political events and contact their local, state, and federal governments. The Pew Internet & American Life Project found that during the 2008 election, nearly three in four Internet users went online to obtain information about the campaign. Broadband allowed voters to watch videos of candidates' speeches and participate in the political discourse. The first ever presidential debate that allowed voters to submit questions via YouTube demonstrated how technology has infiltrated our civic life.

The Internet is also an outlet for citizens to provide feedback to policymakers. A joint study by the University of Illinois and the Pew Internet & American Life Project shows that Internet users are more likely to contact the government than non-Internet users. Two-thirds of Internet users have contacted the government in the past year, compared to one-third of non-Internet users who had made contact. Broadband connections allow Americans to serve as more active participants in the political process.

Given these benefits, the AAJC believes that it is important that all Asian Americans have a home broadband connection, particularly those who may currently lack access in rural and low-income communities. These individuals have the most to gain from the advantages that broadband provides. In order to ensure that all Americans gain access, it is important that the FCC adopt policies that maintain the current level of private sector investment. According to an Empiris study, broadband service providers invested approximately \$120 billion in communications networks over the past two years. These investments lead to the deployment of more broadband and lower consumer prices. Through its national broadband plan, the FCC must foster an environment where the private sector has incentives to continue investments of this scale.

AAJC urges the FCC to adopt a national broadband strategy that brings broadband to all Americans. Broadband must be kept affordable so that all Americans can experience its benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. A. Eng". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vincent A. Eng
Deputy Director
Asian American Justice Center