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

June 22, 2009

Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

Advancing broadband deployment and the innovation economy are central parts of the 2009 agenda for President Obama, Congress and the FCC. Job creation, healthcare, education and economic recovery depend, in large measure, on achieving this goal. Our organizations and companies rely heavily on high-capacity broadband to run our businesses, and want to bring to your attention a dangerous broadband chokepoint that threatens to derail those efforts, ultimately hurting consumers and job creation.

Each of our organizations needs reliable and competitively priced high-capacity broadband lines to create jobs, deliver our products and services to consumers, and contribute to our Nation's economic recovery. Manufacturers now depend on these facilities to manage factories and supply chains. Competitive carriers need them to reach their customers. Retailers rely on these facilities to ensure fast validation of credit cards, manage just-in-time inventory systems, and operate e-commerce operations. Healthcare providers lease dedicated high-capacity telecommunications lines for digital health records and telemedicine. Mobile phone carriers connect their network of thousands of towers to the Internet backbone using these high-capacity broadband lines. In short, they are a critical input to the functioning of our information economy.

We are writing to you today with a simple message: Please help our businesses and the consumers we serve to reap the benefits of a growing, robust information economy. We urge you to act now, in 2009, to provide relief from this high-capacity broadband chokepoint (referred to as "special access" in the FCC's rules). The inflated rates many are forced to pay the entities that control this market are taking dollars away from already-struggling consumers, companies working hard to save jobs, and innovators that want to expand broadband service across America.

Access to a robust and competitive market for high-capacity broadband with reasonable prices is the key to lasting economic growth and job creation. If the FCC's efforts to spur broadband investment and use across the country do not include reform of the high-capacity broadband market, the Commission will have left a gaping hole in the Nation's broadband economy.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

The Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee