

July 1, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

An open and accessible Internet is essential to America's future. It will help revitalize our economy, improve our education and health care, engage millions more people in our democracy and give new meaning to freedom of speech. We only need to look to recent events in Iran to see how important an open internet was in helping people express their demands for fairer representation in their government.

In crafting the national broadband plan, the Federal Communications Commission must protect Internet users from corporate gatekeepers who seek to keep prices high and speeds slow, limit access to content and stifle innovation and market choice. Net Neutrality must be a basic and enforceable rule of the Internet. The plan must also ensure that every American -- regardless of race, income or location -- can connect to broadband at prices everyone can afford.

Allowing powerful corporate interests to dictate the future of modern communications is a mistake that cannot be repeated. Our nation's health in the 21st century requires that the FCC puts a people-powered Internet first.

An important research study about broadband internet quality and availability has ranked the U.S. 15th among the countries of the world. Allowing the large telecommunications corporations to become gatekeepers, to determine what web content loads quickly and without problems, will only exacerbate this downward trend in the quality of the American broadband experience. And most certainly it would give these few corporations dangerous control over the flow of internet information that they do not deserve, and could very easily abuse.

