

06/08/09

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. 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 innovations 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 their 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. I don't want to settle for a national broadband policy that doesn't make America #1. That means: -We must have the fastest possible speeds. -Broadband MUST NOT be rationed, capped or tiered. -"Fast enough" for most people to check e-mail and web pages broadband, is not good enough. -We must put an end to policies that allow providers to artificially limit consumption through throttles, usage caps, and forced metered pricing at enormous markups. - We need protections against manipulating broadband policies to protect providers' other business interests, such as streaming online video competing with traditional cable television business models. -We need policies that encourage competition among providers, even if it means establishing "common carrier" status to permit competitor access to wired infrastructure under fair terms. -We need a policy that recognizes the rapid development of broadband technology and expects providers to grow with the times to accommodate new platforms, technologies, and applications. -We need a policy that embraces municipal, public, and/or non-profit organizations that wish to establish advanced networks as they see fit, without having to face lawsuits and delay tactics from commercial interests. -We need recognition that there cannot be two broadband platforms in this country - one slow lane for rural and under-competitive markets and one fast lane for urban areas. -We MUST have equal access, equal speeds and fair pricing.