

06/05/09

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,

Acting Chairman Michael Copps is right. The national broadband plan is the most transformative proceeding ever in the Commission's history (since the FCC wasn't created when radio got started). Or at least it has the potential to be. An open and accessible - net neutral - Internet 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. One controlled by the current media owners literally has the power to lead us into "1984" style despotism where the rich get richer, the poor get poorer - and nobody knows what's really going on, only what they are told. Net Neutrality and universal access must be the focus of our national broadband plan. Corporate control of the media is a 20th century mistake we cannot afford to repeat in the 21st century. Our failing economy is evidence of what happens when corporate gatekeepers are allowed to keep prices high and service low, to ! limit access to information and to stifle innovations and market choice. When AT&T was broken up in the 1980s, we got innovation out the wazoo. When AT&T was allowed to re-group, we got depression. Let's not do that again. Net Neutrality and universal access means that market forces are harnessed to drive the national economy up. Corporate control means means not only do corporations control the market instead of vice versa, but those forces are harnessed to drive the corporate economy up while driving the national economy down. Not a smart thing for any government to permit, much less encourage. Give us our broadband and we'll turn this economy around so fast you'll think the last year's been a bad dream. Thanks,