

August 4, 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.

In crafting the national broadband plan, the Federal Communications Commission must protect Internet users from corporate gatekeepers who seek to keep prices high, speeds slow, availability questionable, and limit access to content which will 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.

Please read the following article, which shows how far behind the United States is in terms of access speed and cost when compared to other countries around the world: <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/blog/blog.aspx?id=1088>
[1]

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 if this country is to maintain its position as a trailblazer in the twenty-first century.

[1] <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/blog/blog.aspx?id=1088>