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Dear Mr. Chairman,

Many thanks for your presentation and the time you spent with the Consumer Advisory Committee meeting at the Federal Communications Commission last Thursday. Your's was the first direct conversation the CAC has had with a Chairman, and your comments were much appreciated.

Since you did not have time to address all our questions, I would like to comment on two of your six major points. First, I was thrilled that you focused your first point on the FCC's development of a National Broadband Plan. Blair Levin's mobilization of talent and ideas internally at the FCC and externally from many sources is nothing short of inspiring. I noted especially your concluding comment, "Universal Broadband... we have to do it." The Benton Foundation has done a great deal of work on Universal Broadband during the last couple of years, including two major reports, "Universal, Affordable Broadband for All Americans," (<http://www.benton.org/node/8537>) authored by Jim Kohlenberger when he was a Senior Fellow at the Benton Foundation, and "An Action Plan for America: Using Technology and Innovation to Address our Nation's Critical Challenges – A Report for the Next Administration," ([http://www.benton.org/initiatives/broadband\\_benefits/action\\_plan](http://www.benton.org/initiatives/broadband_benefits/action_plan)). The latter report has been an invaluable resource for the current work of the Adoption and Use Subcommittee of the U.S. Broadband Coalition. The Coalition, as you may know, is meeting at the Commission on September 24 to issue a report that identifies key issues and a range of policy options that the U.S. should consider in determining its broadband future. I am attaching an announcement about this meeting, which we just received from the New America Foundation.

Second, I was heartened to hear you articulate your goal to "Advance a vibrant media landscape." While the Benton Foundation is deeply committed to our broadband future, we are also concerned about the rules for "old" media. Over 10 years ago, I had the privilege of serving on the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters (often referred to as the "Gore Commission"), and I recall you were instrumental in Barry Diller's participation as well. With support from the Ford Foundation in 2005, the Benton Foundation updated the PIAC report, "Charting the Digital Broadcasting Future," with our Citizen's Guide to the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters. I believe the recommendations from that report are as valid today as they were several years ago. As you know, Commissioner Copps has had a long interest in this area, and we hope very much that the FCC under your leadership will promptly complete this unfinished business in the transition from analog to digital television. In particular, I would refer you to the Commission's pending proceeding on diversity in broadcast ownership and broadcast content, MB Docket No. 07-294, and the pending Petitions for Reconsideration in the Quadrennial Broadcast Ownership Review, 06-121. Resolution of these two long-standing proceedings would make an excellent first step in advancing your goal of creating a vibrant media landscape.

Founded in 1981, the Benton Foundation is the only foundation working full time on communications in the public interest. It would be my pleasure and privilege if you might have some time next week for a meeting. I'll be in Washington Tuesday afternoon through Friday afternoon and will be in touch with Sherrese Smith and your scheduler in hopes of setting up some time.

Sincerely,

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