

COVINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"PROGRESS WITH PRIDE"

October 13, 2009

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As Executive Director of the Covington County Chamber of Commerce in Collins, Mississippi, I am very concerned about our future. We are in a dangerous economic time and our county has experienced the loss of jobs. While there have been some indications of new economic growth, experts agree that unemployment will continue to plague Americans through 2010.

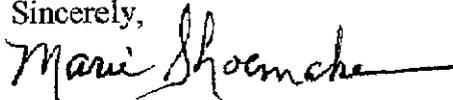
Yet the FCC could jeopardize wireless investment with its upcoming announcement on network neutrality. The regulations under consideration are clearly a wrong step that will stifle growth at a time when new jobs and new dollars in the economy are needed most.

Network neutrality regulations are adverse to innovation, investment and job growth. This is true in wireless networks, just as it is true in broadband policy. In each case, heavily regulating the operations of the Internet will damage the broadband progress in my state.

President Obama has noted time and again the importance of infrastructure projects and other job creators. There's no greater example of that than the fast-growing wireless industry, where many competitive companies are building out their networks to bring improved service to consumers. It's also true of broadband networks, which can bring a host of benefits to my constituents through better access to tools supporting education, health care and government access.

Building out networks means jobs, improved quality of life and the long-term infrastructure we need to build on our local economies. Thus, it is absolutely critical that the FCC does not impose network neutrality regulations.

Sincerely,



Marie Shoemake
Executive Director