



**WOODROW W. "WOODY" GOSSOM, JR.
COUNTY JUDGE**

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Wichita County Judge

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket 07-52)
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

I am the County Judge for Wichita County, Texas, with a population of a little over 130,000. We are located next to the Red River, about 120 miles northwest of Fort Worth. I am writing to express my opposition to proposed wireless net neutrality rules because of the impact they will have on our community.

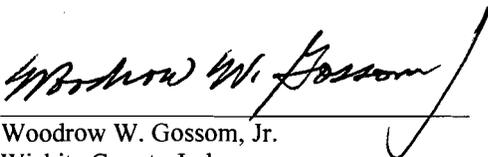
While Wichita Falls and our surrounding communities are first and foremost in our hearts, we are not often first in the hearts of national and international businesses. When it comes to technology, we usually have to wait to get something the big cities have been enjoying for some time.

Sprint just launched 4G service here this month, while T-Mobile launched 3G earlier this year, and we are waiting on the other cell phone companies to finish upgrading their towers to provide 3G service by early next year. More than 350 other U.S. cities already have high-speed wireless access, as do nearby communities in Oklahoma and those driving Interstate 44, but we are still waiting. Until these upgrades are completed, we in Wichita County are unable to fully utilize the devices we see advertised on television, such as BlackBerries, iPhones, and other "smart" phones. I fully expect the next generation of services will be available in bigger cities before it is here, and we will once again be waiting for technology to find us.

That's why I'm concerned about your agency's proposal to regulate the wireless Internet. It strikes me as counter-productive to apply restrictions and regulations to the wireless networks when communities like ours are eager to get our hands on the technology in the first place. Slowing down upgrades to cell tower technology will only keep places like Wichita County behind the curve, to the point that we may not receive upgraded cell towers at all.

It will sure be nice when all our local cell phone towers are upgraded to 3G, but it will not be so desirable if that's all we have six years from now. Imagine the impact on economic development if we do not keep pace with rapidly changing technology.

Regulating the Internet on wireless networks will not help keep Wichita County, its citizens and businesses abreast with changing technologies. These regulations will only help to recreate a digital divide we are today so close to overcoming.


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