

October 14, 2009

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The importance of broadband infrastructure to the economic recovery of our country is unquestioned. And, all agree that we need broadband investment to ensure the future global competitiveness of Tennessee and our nation.

Unfortunately, your recent comments about new regulations and other constraints on the Internet—and particularly on wireless service—are counter to these truths. I am deeply concerned because this policy may limit investment in much needed infrastructure, stifle innovation and disadvantage consumers.

In Tennessee, broadband access and adoption have been growing dramatically in just the last few years thanks to a tremendous amount of private investment and the introduction of new technologies like faster wireless data service. Personal and business consumers in my state are taking advantage of these resources to energize their business and simplify their lives. Moreover, with companies competing to bring the best possible service to customers, broadband and wireless investment brings jobs to our local economics.

We work hard in Tennessee to create a business climate that encourages investment and new jobs. That means we understand the needs of businesses and how private capital is directed. I strongly urge you to consider growth and economic development when considering these unprecedented regulations of broadband and wireless service.

The Internet is working today and growing for tomorrow. Changing course now would be a terrible mistake.

Sincerely,

Craig Fitzhugh, Chairman
House Finance, Ways & Means Committee
Tennessee House of Representatives

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