

B
A
S
T
R
O
P



*Where Preservation
of the Past
Combined with Progress
for the Future Encourages
Opportunities to Grow*

City of Bastrop
904 Main Street
P.O. Box 427
Bastrop, Texas 78602

512-321-4520 Main
512-303-7305 Metro
512-321-6684 Fax

www.cityofbastrop.org

**Office of the
Mayor**

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

RE: Broadband Industry Practices Rules (WC 07-52)

I am the mayor of Bastrop, TX a rapidly growing city in the Lost Pines 31 miles east of Austin, Texas. We are the second oldest incorporated city in Texas, having been established in 1832 as part of Stephen F. Austin's "Little Colony." Our proud past lives harmoniously with our modern present. Bastrop residents are part of a close community. Our tremendous growth trends consistently raise the standard of excellence, yet we are small enough to know and care for each other. The many attractions offered in Bastrop foster opportunities for family time and fellowship.

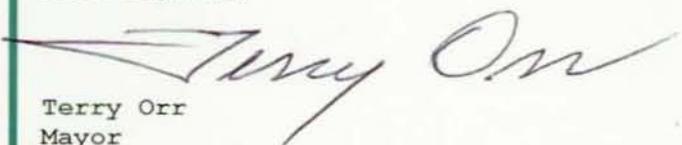
The 3G network is being expanded, which will bring the whole city under the umbrella of high-speed mobile Internet. This exciting development is further proof that Bastrop has a bright, high-tech future.

Our bright future could be derailed if network neutrality regulations are enacted. While we are close to Austin and located along the busy highway corridor connecting Austin and Houston, there is never a guarantee that Bastrop will get the same technology as those larger cities. This is especially true if the rules limit investment in network expansions. Smaller cities like ours will be among the ones which see much-delayed upgrades, if we see them at all.

Our local economy is increasingly dependent upon having high-speed Internet access readily available. As our citizens and businesses take advantage of 3G wireless and our wired broadband networks, they will put ever greater demands upon the Internet's infrastructure. Without continued investment, our ability to harness the Internet will be stopped dead.

Federal policies should encourage investment in upgrading and expanding broadband networks, so that they will keep up with demand. Sacrificing economic growth to appease net neutrality supporters is not a rational policy, even for a city with as much history and potential as Bastrop.

Best regards,


Terry Orr
Mayor