

**Mr. Ralph Slavens**  
**3252 S. Oak Ave.**  
**Springfield, MO 65804**  
**October 13, 2009**

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Commission:

Among its other important uses, the Internet has become an important tool in our nation's elections. By making information easily available, the Internet is helping to rally and involve countless Americans in the democratic process who previously took little interest in such matters.

As a strong supporter of Democrat Party candidates, I'm thrilled by the opportunities the Internet provides to get more Americans politically motivated. During our last major election, I know of dozens of people who used their cell phones and computers to go online to communicate about the candidates and to make contributions to various campaigns.

Certainly, none of this would have been possible without the open and available nature of the Internet. I appreciate the work that the Federal Communications Commission has accomplished to make this happen. Your approach has provided the right balance of government oversight to keep information flowing while continuing to encourage considerable investments in faster and better communications networks.

Yet, I now understand the Commission is looking at "net neutrality" proposals to upset this balance. As a loyal supporter of the principles of the Democratic Party, I agree that the government has an important role in ensuring that all Americans are treated fairly and given an opportunity to succeed. However, these current proposals seem to be nothing more than governmental meddling and interference where it is not needed.

Our nation's communications companies have built an infrastructure for the Internet that offers access to all. Information is readily available thanks to the billions of dollars that have been invested in these state-of-the-art networks. I would hate to see that changed because of some unnecessary government regulations.

Sincerely,



Ralph Slavens