



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

St. Louis

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)

October 14, 2009

Dear Chairman:

On behalf of the St. Louis chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, I'm writing to you today to emphasize the importance of broadband technology for women business owners. By enabling applications for e-commerce, distance learning, and communication, broadband is vastly improving the business climate for our members.

As recent innovations have made it easier for small business owners to begin and expand our businesses, it is imperative that we have unfettered access to this critical resource. We thank the Commission for examining the importance of broadband through workshops and a Public Notice. However, we are concerned about the consequences that potential net neutrality regulations could have on our members. As the Commission considers imposing such regulations at your October 22 Open Commission Meeting, we urge you to keep in mind how these rules will detrimentally impact broadband adoption among small businesses, and all Americans.

Simply put, net neutrality regulations will do nothing to advance the goals of universal broadband deployment and adoption, particularly to our members. Without the ability to charge high bandwidth users on the network for necessary upgrades and greater deployment, a net neutrality regime will place those costs on us. In this economy, no one is in a position to absorb greater costs for broadband usage, and it is unfair to ask us our members and those simply trying to establish a business for the first time to bear this burden.

Through the creation of a National Broadband Plan, the Commission has the opportunity to bring broadband to new groups of Americans who have yet to understand its benefits. We hope that the Commission will not counteract the Plan's intended results by placing additional obstacles in the way of 100 percent broadband access.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pecha-Poelker
President, NAWBO St. Louis

Telephone 314-954-8344 • Website www.nawbostl.org

P.O. Box 6925, St. Louis, MO 63123