

M I L L E R & V A N E A T O N
P. L. L. C.

MATTHEW C. AMES
KENNETH A. BRUNETTI*
MARC L. FRISCHKORN
GAIL A. KARISH*
NICHOLAS P. MILLER
MATTHEW K. SCHETTENHELM
JOSEPH VAN EATON

*Admitted to Practice in
California Only

1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4320
TELEPHONE (202) 785-0600
FAX (202) 785-1234

MILLER & VAN EATON, L.L.P.
580 CALIFORNIA STREET
SUITE 1600
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104
TELEPHONE (415) 477-3650
FAX (415) 738-2466

WWW.MILLERVANEATON.COM

OF COUNSEL:
JAMES R. HOBSON
GERARD L. LEDERER
WILLIAM R. MALONE

November 5, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Written *Ex Parte* Presentations: In The Matter of A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, Docket 09-51; CTIA Petition for Declaratory Ruling, Docket 08-165

Dear Madam Secretary:

On November 4, 2009, the below identified members of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Board of Directors and the undersigned conducted an *ex parte* meeting with Christi Shewman and Charles Mathias, Legal Advisors to Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker with respect to the above captioned matters. The subject matter of our conversation was consistent with the representations outlined in the attached documents which we shared with Ms. Shewman and Mr. Mathias.

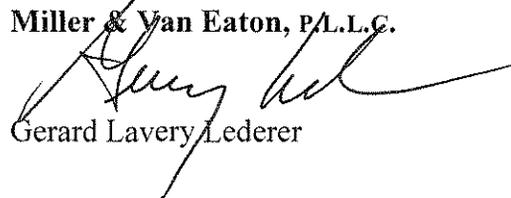
The NATOA Board members present were Joanne Hovis, President-Elect and Mary Beth Henry, Immediate Past President. We were also joined by Ron Thaniel, Assistant Executive Director of the United States Conference of Mayors.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter and the presentation used during the meeting are being filed via ECFS with your office. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

Miller & Van Eaton, P.L.L.C.

By


Gerard Lavery Lederer

cc: Christi Shewman
Charles Mathias

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TOP TEN POINTS OF THE NATOA FILING ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO BROADBAND¹

(FCC National Broadband Plan Public Notice #7)

1. Broadband networks are essential elements to local government civic engagement and e-government.
2. Local government municipal fiber networks are critical to broadband deployment.
3. Municipal fiber networks provide services for local governments that the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide.
4. Continued local authority will encourage broadband deployment through franchising build-out, the spurring of private investment, and rights-of-way management.
5. The National Broadband Plan must include strong measures to protect public broadband initiatives from the many barriers they face such as state legislation, frivolous lawsuits, and anticompetitive incumbent behavior.
6. The National Broadband Plan should adopt policies to preserve existing local broadband networks and to enable the expansion of those networks.
7. The National Broadband Plan should adopt policies to enable the deployment of new local broadband networks.
8. Rights-of-way management must continue to occur at the local level to ensure that existing public and private infrastructure remains safe and also to allow for the provision of new competitive services.
9. Local governments must be permitted to obtain fair and reasonable compensation for the use of public rights-of-way.
10. The National Broadband Plan must preserve state and local land use and zoning authority over wireless siting.

¹ Comments of NATOA will be filed with the FCC on November 6, 2009.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ON ZONING OF WIRELESS FACILITIES

- **Congress has spoken clearly on this issue and retained local zoning.**

The language of § 332(c)(7) is clear as to Congress' intent to keep local and State zoning of wireless facility siting applications intact. Even more to the point, the legislative history says that § 332(c)(7) "prevents Commission preemption of local and State land use decisions and preserves the authority of State and local governments over zoning and land use matters except in the limited circumstances set forth." The limitations referred to require that wireless siting applications must be addressed "within a reasonable period of time after the request is duly filed with such government or instrumentality, taking into account the nature and scope of such request," and that zoning regulations "shall not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless services."
- **Congress left disputes arising under § 332(c)(7) to the courts.**

Congress was clear in the legislative history that "[i]t is the intent of the conferees that other than under section 332(c)(7)(B)(iv) [radio emissions] of the Communications Act of 1934...the courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all other disputes arising under this section."
- **The wireless industry has presented scant and specious claims to support its petition.**

The claims used to support the petition are few and faulty. The wireless industry has presented supposed "horror stories," telling only one side of the story and in some cases giving vague or anonymous tales to support their claims. At the same time, the wireless industry repeatedly says most local zoning authorities are able to complete applications within the deadlines they propose. In essence, they claim no problem exists except in extreme cases – the precise reason Congress left flexibility in the process by retaining local zoning control and providing for a judicial forum to handle disputes or delays that may arise during wireless siting applications. The last time the wireless industry made claims like those in the petition, the FCC and local governments worked with industry to find a solution – recent history the industry now chooses to forget.
- **Granting the industry's petition would undermine due process and democratic values.**

Many local zoning authorities are required to provide local residents with notice of a proposed siting, as well as an opportunity to comment and voice concerns with a proposal. This process – designed to further protect property values, safety, and aesthetic qualities of an area – would be eviscerated under the petition. Further, for local zoning authorities to process applications in line with the proposed deadlines, they would be forced to give preference to wireless siting applications, something Congress specifically rejected in the legislative history: "It is not the intent of this provision to give preferential treatment to the personal wireless service industry in the processing of requests, or to subject their requests to any but the generally applicable time frames for zoning decision."

NATOA filed comments in response to CTIA's Petition with the FCC on behalf of itself, the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and the United States Conference of Mayors. Additional information can be found at www.natoa.org.

Presented 10/24/08 US House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Staff

National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 519-8035, (703) 519-8036 - Fax, www.natoa.org



October 22, 2009

Chair Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chair Genachowski:

On behalf of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), we write to express our support for the Commission's continued efforts to safeguard the free and prosperous market built on the open Internet.

The open Internet has empowered citizens and local communities by increasing civic participation, facilitating learning, and strengthening neighborhood businesses. Via the Internet, city and state governments can stream council meetings, publish text of resolutions and other official documents, and communicate with their constituents online directly. Students can communicate with their teachers and with one another, and can access immense databases of information, from home, school, and even their neighborhood coffee shop. Through the Internet, small businesses and entrepreneurs can advertise and sell online, and compete with much larger businesses on a level playing field by creating a better product – not by paying for preferential treatment online. The open Internet brings to communities both a stronger economy and a stronger democracy.

For years the FCC has intervened when necessary to preserve the economic and social benefits of the open Internet. As threats to these benefits increase, the time has come to move from incremental actions to clear rules, and we encourage you to continue towards that end. The Commission's existing four principles, plus the proposed principles of nondiscrimination and transparency, should be enacted into rules to establish a clear framework for the open Internet. Such a framework, if developed correctly, will safeguard the benefits of the Internet for local communities, and will foster new opportunities for economic growth and civic engagement.

Attached please find NATOA's formal policy statement on Network Neutrality, adopted in March 2007. We look forward to working with you in developing the proper framework for the open Internet, to preserve its democratic, social, and economic benefits for this and the next generation of citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Fellman".

Ken Fellman
NATOA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya S. Rideout".

Tonya S. Rideout
NATOA Acting Executive Director



Board of Directors Policy Statement
On "Network Neutrality"
Adopted March 7, 2007

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), an organization dedicated to promoting community interests in communications, has reinforced its long standing policy statement regarding the non-discriminatory access by all users to all forms of communications services. NATOA's Board supports the efforts of lawmakers to enact specific legislation that would prevent communications providers from discriminating or prioritizing the transmissions of any communications services or products based on the content or source of such services and products. NATOA's current policy states:

NATOA Supports:

- **... the effective and efficient use of all communications technologies including voice, video, data, and information services over wired and wireless transmission technologies.**

Local governments support implementation of Federal, State and Local laws and rules that encourage open and interconnected services and technologies that are universally available to all citizens.

In recent years communications providers have suggested that they expect to favor some content and services over others, for commercial, political, or other purposes. NATOA's Board does not believe that a communications provider should be allowed to favor one content provider, service or product over another. All persons purchasing specific communications services or products from a communications provider should receive access without any form of discrimination by the communications provider. This principle of non-discriminatory treatment is called "Net Neutrality."

Communications providers are already compensated for the use of their networks through subscriptions by consumers to their products and services. Communications providers should not be allowed to favor one consumer over another simply by virtue of the consumer's choice of product, service, or website.



Who is NATOA?

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) is the national association that represents the communications needs and interests of local governments, and those who advise local governments. Our membership includes local government agencies, local government staff and public officials, as well as consultants, attorneys, and engineers who consult with local governments on their communications needs. Our government members have responsibilities that range from cable administration, telecommunications franchising, rights-of-way management and government access programming to information technologies and I-NET planning and management. We have members from not-for-profit organizations whose needs and interests are complementary to those of NATOA's members, as well as local government vendors and communications providers of all types of services to and for local governments.