

December 18, 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: In the matter of Preserving the Open Internet, GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

While I applaud and share the goal of "preserving the open Internet," I am deeply concerned with the approach apparently being considered by the Commission. When deployed in the proper context, regulation is a valuable and useful tool to protect consumers and workers. However, when an industry is highly competitive, as is case in the broadband Internet market, excess regulation will stifle innovation and raise costs for consumers.

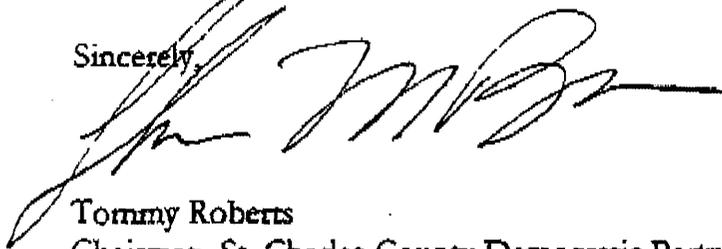
Given the current economic conditions faced by our country, it is important that the public and private sectors partner to get our economy back on track. I urge the Commission to pursue policies that will spur the economy and allow for job creation and growth. Extraordinary capital investments have been made in our nation's broadband network; and these investments created well-paying jobs. I fear that regulation will stall future expansion and investment, further slowing our country's economic recovery.

I've been pleased by some recent announcements of federal grants to increase and expand the reach of broadband Internet to all Americans. This is absolutely the correct approach to assist our nation's continued recovery. This is not a partisan issue or one that should be argued amongst different constituencies. The preservation of a framework that rewards innovation and investment is of utmost importance to all Americans, regardless of political creed or geographic location.

I respectfully ask the Commission to refrain from regulatory policy that will stifle and stall growth and instead aggressively pursue the goal of 100% broadband availability in the United States and.

Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

Tommy Roberts
Chairman, St. Charles County Democratic Party
Alderman, St. Peters, MO