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Chairman Julius Genachowski
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Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 6, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the publisher of a semi-weekly newspaper in a small, rural South Carolina town, I am a strong advocate for progressive, forward-looking government policies which encourage business investment and economic development.

More jobs translate into more potential advertisers, more potential subscribers and a growing community. Consequently, I have been very interested in your open Internet proceeding and the potential for new net neutrality regulations.

Technological advances have historically been the catalyst for economic growth, yet I doubt that anyone could have predicted the impact which the Internet has had. In a relatively short period of time, the Internet has completely changed how merchants market and how consumers shop. In my business, it has changed how my readers and advertisers relate to my printed newspaper. Yet, we have only scratched the surface.

I am convinced that high-speed Internet - broadband - is the key to future economic growth. This technology truly erases distances and expands horizons.

Businesses are willing to locate in rural areas, such as Bennettsville and Marlboro County, with good qualities of life when broadband connects them seamlessly to customers and vendors in cities and across the globe.

Many of the jobs they create in this information economy are environmentally-friendly and high-paying. Broadband can expand educational opportunities and help reduce medical costs. And by connecting citizens with their government, it can increase civic participation.

"Serving Marlboro County and Pee Dee Area Residents Since 1874"

This optimistic vision of the future is attainable, especially as we look at how the Internet has grown and technology has flourished under the FCC's current oversight approach.

I am concerned that new stringent regulations could easily delay that exciting future by discouraging private sector investment in deploying and maintaining broadband infrastructure.

Currently, despite the present state of our economy, providers are investing tens of billions of dollars and are creating new, American jobs. Our economy cannot afford to lose this level of investment, nor can those who lack broadband connections afford to wait any longer for access.

I understand the business motivation behind much of the "net neutrality" debate. I, too, would like the opportunity to limit some of my future costs and know that I'm not likely to have to modify my business plan in response to new competitors or new technology. But I don't believe that would be in the best interest of my community of Marlboro County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on such an important issue. While our country faces many challenges today, I can think of none more pressing than the need to get our economic engine running again and bringing economic growth to communities such as Bennettsville and Marlboro County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Light Kinney, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

William Light Kinney, Jr
Publisher/Editor
Marlboro Herald Advocate
Bennettsville, S.C.