



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Chartered Jurisdiction includes Riverside, Rubidoux, Jurupa, Moreno Valley, South Corona, and Eastern Riverside County Sphere of Influence

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)

January 5, 2010

Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you today because of our concern over the FCC's proposed rulemaking regarding network neutrality. While I support the Commission's goal of maintaining a free and open Internet, I am concerned that imposing a network neutrality rule will negatively impact the ability of minority communities to access broadband networks.

Today, African-Americans are using the Internet in greater numbers than ever before – in fact, African-American mobile Internet usage has grown significantly – more than doubling in the last two years. Even with this fact, African-Americans still lag behind both white and Hispanic-Americans in Internet accessibility and on-line usage.

President Obama has established universal adoption as one of his Administration's technological goals, meaning that every American should have access to broadband. If network neutrality is enacted, it will necessitate the raising of prices on high-speed Internet, making it even more difficult, or even impossible, for minority and underserved communities to get online.

I am sure you would agree that the Internet is an essential tool in the modern world. It has enabled people to access a wide range of educational tools, employment opportunities, and entertainment options. I therefore respectfully ask that the Commission carefully consider the consequences of net neutrality before moving ahead with any rule that will unintentionally widen the digital divide.

Sincerely,

W. E. Rucker-Hughes
President, NAACP-Riverside Branch
SE Area Director, California State Conference, NAACP

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