



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

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DISTRICT 16

Counties:
Part Jefferson County

COMMITTEES

Public Transportation
Public Transportation and Rail
Subcommittee

City, County and Local Affairs
Vice Chairperson,
Planning Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Public
Retirement and Social Security
Programs

January 6, 2010

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: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Broadband access for all is a very important goal, as illustrated during Chairman Genachowski's recent visit to Arkansas. As the Chairman and others said in a public meeting at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, broadband offers opportunities in education, commerce and health care. Government and industry must work together make broadband available to everyone, because the cost simply is too great. In that spirit, I am writing to urge you to exercise great caution and thoughtfulness as you consider adopting new regulations on Internet services. My objective is that any new regulation should not be counterproductive and slow down broadband deployment, especially in southeast Arkansas where I work and serve as a state legislator.

In the past decade we have seen Internet service progress from dialup to broadband, and today high-speed service is available to most homes. As speeds and areas of service have increased, the cost of service has stayed flat or gone down. That has allowed many Arkansans, especially those in the African American community, to subscribe to home Internet service and enjoy its many benefits. I believe that government can do many good things, but I note that this growth in broadband service has come about with minimal government regulation. I ask you to consider how new regulations will help speed up the process of providing broadband access to everyone.

I am particularly concerned for my state. Arkansas has received a federal stimulus grant for mapping, so we can know where service is still needed. Our state also has some wonderful programs that use broadband to deliver health

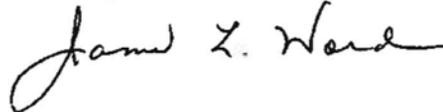
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care and other services to minority and moderate-income families and to rural hospitals and clinics. My hope is that you will keep in mind that such programs need to be strengthened and expanded, and that you will focus on adopting policies to help achieve that goal.

My career has been spent serving the poor, aged and disadvantaged in our community, and I will continue to work on behalf of those who are historically underserved. As we strive to increase broadband adoption among minorities and economically challenged Arkansans, I encourage you to think carefully about how your actions can best benefit those individuals. Please take care and be sure that any new Internet policies are constructive and move us toward the goal of broadband access for everyone in America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Word". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James L. Word
State Representative

JLW/mlj