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29th District

January 6, 2010

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As State Senator of Florida District 29, my constituents number almost 400,000, and most of them have an interest in broadband internet access. Broadband internet access is growing increasingly vital to our educational, financial, business, health care and other industries. The innovations and improvements we as consumers have seen in the last few years have all been related, either directly or indirectly, to the technology revolution. More and more Floridians are experiencing the benefits of this revolution – at home, at work, at the library or on their smart phones. I applaud the Administration's efforts to expand broadband access even more.

I am concerned, however, that the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") may be putting the goal of 100% broadband at risk in the open internet proceeding. New regulatory requirements may chill investment by the private sector, upon which we unequivocally rely to build our networks. Applying the rules to only the network providers may do additional damage, further stalling or slowing investment. It makes no sense to micromanage the way that network providers manage their significant assets.

Continued investment by the private sector is vital to my community. Fast and robust networks are critical to continued access for business and consumers. Investment brings jobs, and it affects my community in the well-being of my constituents -- their activity in the economy, philanthropy and government services and revenues. Anything that chills investment may

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JEFF ATWATER
President of the Senate

MIKE FASANO
President Pro Tempore

January 6, 2010

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increase costs, which could jeopardize those who are last to adopt the internet, and could potentially disenfranchise them. Particularly in this economic time, broadband internet access is critical to our consumers' and our communities' success and recovery. Let's not do anything that puts jobs and investment at risk.

Since the advent of the internet, we have deliberately pursued policies that have kept it open and available. As a result of that approach, we see continued vitality, growing investment, and new and innovative products and services. Let's continue that success, not attempt to fix something that isn't broken.

I urge the FCC to use caution in this proceeding. Please don't take any action that puts access, jobs or investment at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my view on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Senator Chris Smith
Florida Senate District 29