



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
NASHVILLE BRANCH

1308 JEFFERSON STREET • NASHVILLE, TN 37208 • 615-329-0999

*Marilyn Robinson  
President*

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

January 6, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

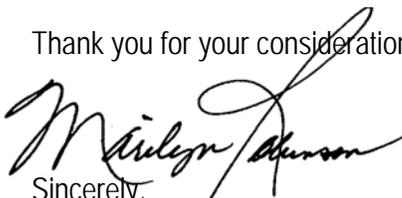
As Executive Director of the Nashville Minority Business Center and the President of the Nashville Branch of the NAACP, I am focused like a laser beam on how to ensure that my constituents have adequate and appropriate access to all the benefits of high-speed broadband and can translate those benefits into good jobs and new businesses. In this day and age, broadband access and availability are critical to the success of my community.

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") is considering a national broadband plan to bring access to the entire country. I applaud that effort. With every day that passes, that access becomes more vital to our personal, community and economic success. I am worried, however, that the FCC's Open Internet proceeding may contradict the goals and objectives of the national broadband effort. We ask our private sector to build and deploy, upgrade and invest in our networks. I understand that the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") includes new requirements that may hinder that investment. I further understand that certain provisions of the NPRM apply only to the network companies and not to those who use the network. That seems to further discourage investment and expenditure.

As broadband access becomes increasingly important as a key indicator for success and, conversely, the lack of access becomes a predictor of disenfranchisement, I hope the FCC will carefully consider the impact of these rules on minority individuals and businesses and our economic well-being moving forward. We need to carefully consider our objectives here and, in my view, keep our eyes on expanding and improving access rather than on imposing new rules on one sector of the Internet – the one we count on to build the network.

The broadband effort is better aligned with the current economic conditions we face and will bring my community better opportunity across the board.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Sincerely,  
Marilyn Robinson, President  
NAACP Nashville Branch