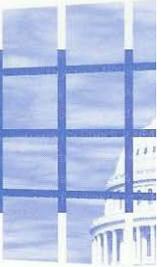




# SEEING BEYOND

Investing in State Leadership: Improving Communities



January 8, 2010

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry (GN Docket No. 09-51)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, the National Conference of Black Mayors, the National Association of Black County Officials and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, I submit *Broadband Imperatives for African Americans: Policy Recommendations to Increase Digital Adoption for Minorities and Their Communities* in response to the above referenced dockets.

This policy statement sets forth a series of mutually agreed upon policy recommendations we think will be beneficial in promoting national broadband adoption and use, particularly among low-income, unserved, underserved and minority populations.

As representatives of African Americans across the nation – a group with only a 46% broadband adoption rate compared to the 65% rate for White Americans – we think it absolutely essential that proactive steps be taken to increase awareness in our communities about the transformative power of broadband and to incent broadband adoption and use.

Our goal in filing this policy statement is to secure the inclusion in the National Broadband Plan of policies that will help promote one hundred percent broadband adoption and use by all Americans, particularly those living in communities that have historically been technologically disadvantaged.

As evidenced by this statement, our caucuses support the preservation of the open Internet, as we presently know it, as well as the creation of a policy environment that supports investment in and innovation on the broadband networks which are so essential to our national growth, recovery and prosperity. It is our hope that the policies set forth in this statement not only encourage broadband adoption, but will also prove beneficial in ensuring that the National Broadband Plan reflects the best interests of all Americans.

We commend the Commission for its work and anticipate opportunities to work together in the future.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Calvin Smyre".

Rep. Calvin Smyre (GA)  
NBCSL President

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker