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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 FCC Commissioners:

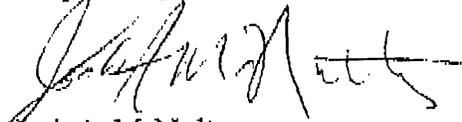
As an attorney and someone who has a longtime involvement in the political process, community development, and rural issues, I'm writing to weigh in on GN Docket No. 09-191, *In the Matter of Preserving an Open Internet*. I trust you'll give my perspective careful consideration as you address the needs of rural communities and their unique circumstances with regard to Internet regulation and universal broadband access.

Broadband access now reaches into even the most remote or rural parts of the United States, but more work is needed. The Pew Internet & American Life project found that in 2005, 24 percent of rural Americans had high-speed Internet connections at home, compared with 39 percent of urban and suburban dwellers. No doubt those numbers have improved as access and adoption rates have continued to grow in Pine Bluff and elsewhere. The fact remains that rural Americans are less likely to have online access than non-rural Americans and, by extension, their usage rates will also be lower.

I wholeheartedly support your effort to advance initiatives aimed at providing every American access to high-speed Internet service. However, there's reason to carefully consider other FCC policies that could impact the universal broadband effort. I am concerned that the regulations proposed in Docket 09-191 may curtail future investment and leave rural Americans without a high-speed connection to the world.

Congress has previously made clear that the FCC should rely first on market forces, rather than regulation, to promote continued development and evolution of the Internet. Let us connect, not disconnect rural America. The promise of high-speed Internet in rural communities and larger cities like Pine Bluff offers hope for better education, access to health care and a more level playing field for businesses looking to grow and prosper in this challenging economy.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack A. McNulty