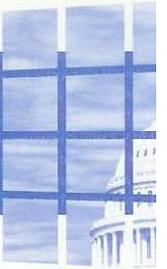




SEEING BEYOND

Investing in State Leadership: Improving Communities



January 11, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators and the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators recently issued a joint policy statement entitled *Toward Access, Adoption and Inclusion: A Call for Digital Equality and Broadband Opportunity*. We write today to file this policy statement in the above referenced proceedings.

Members of our four caucuses were convened in December 2009 to address issues affecting broadband adoption in communities of color. During this meeting, we set out to elucidate top-tier policy imperatives for increasing broadband access, adoption and use in minority, low-income, rural, tribal, unserved and underserved communities. The enclosed policy statement lays out a series of recommendations we hope will be considered during the final phases of framing the National Broadband Plan.

While each of our Caucuses remains acutely focused on targeting the problems that most plague our communities, we all recognize the importance of increased broadband access and adoption by our nation's citizenry. It is in this vein that we suggest various steps that can be taken by individuals, anchor institutions, and federal, state and local governments to ensure universal broadband access and adoption.

This policy statement is but a first step in our organizations' efforts to increase broadband opportunities and digital equality for all Americans, particularly those who have been historically disenfranchised or disadvantaged. We hope you find this policy statement instructive as you consider ways to improve broadband access and adoption for the benefit of all Americans.

We commend the efforts of the Commission in developing a National Broadband Plan, and look forward to assisting in those efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Smyre".

Calvin Smyre
President, National Black Caucus of State Legislators

Enclosure

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