



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 7, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte represents more than 200 area businesses, all interested in the issues impacting the Latin American community and business within our region. Through the LACCC Foundation, our chamber provides educational and entrepreneurial development opportunities for individuals of Latin American origin or descent, while simultaneously working to support Latin American businesses and promoting networking with non-Latin American businesses and organizations.

One area of particular interest is access to advanced broadband technology, an issue which affects our members and our community, in addition to our ability to attract and retain jobs and investment.

The largest minority group in the United States, Latinos have historically lagged behind other populations in broadband adoption. Currently, according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project, only 40% of adult Hispanics use the Internet, compared to 60% of total adults nationwide. However, 62% of Hispanics have accessed the Internet wirelessly, using either their cell phone or a laptop, compared to 55% of all adults. Clearly, the Latin American community is leading the way in the use of mobile broadband.

While these statistics confirm that significant progress has been made at closing the digital divide for our community, they also indicate (1) much work remains to be done in the areas of adoption and access and (2) the greatest benefits have come in the least-regulated area of the marketplace.

Broadband technology offers communities benefits that extend beyond the attraction of new business, and these benefits are increasingly important to our workforce and our families. For the Latino community in particular, wireless technology has greatly assisted in our competitive economic development. Yet the Commission's Open Internet NPRM would add new regulations on wireless technology. What problem would these proposed rules resolve?

The businesses that our organization represents understand the need to provide outstanding products and service in a competitive marketplace. Our constituency realizes and appreciates the necessity for businesses to maintain flexibility in order to manage their assets wisely to recover expenses and set aside capital for investment. Our members also believe that government intervention in a marketplace that is functioning well and benefitting consumers injects business uncertainty.

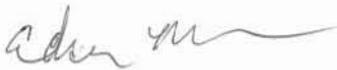
Considering how the Latin American community has benefitted so demonstrably from the FCC current policies and procedures, it is our belief that we have much to lose if the so-called “net neutrality” regulations create a disincentive for investment by wireless and other communications companies.

We represent a growing segment of the North Carolina community, and we are committed to policies that ensure our members – both the businesses themselves and their families – have access to broadband technology. We support the Administration’s efforts to bring broadband to all communities, and would urge the Commission to make those efforts your priority, while moving with great caution in the Open Internet NPRM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denisa Leach".

Denisa Leach
Board co-chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith McElroy".

Edith McElroy
Board co-chair