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of

ARIZONA, INC.

January 12, 2010

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: in the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet (GN Docket No. 09-191) and Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I appreciate this opportunity to weigh in on the Commission's rulemaking process related to new open Internet regulations. As you know, this is a critical policy debate that will have a far ranging impact on not just the broadband but on our economy as a whole. I hope that you will take into account the views of the American Indian community as you proceed.

American Indian communities face unique challenges in participating in the economy, as well as accessing healthcare and educational services. Broadband could change all this, but only if American Indians are able to connect to the Internet at broadband speeds.

As you know, while 95 percent of America currently has access to broadband, a much smaller percentage of households are actually connected to service. As Commissioner Copps recently observed, as many as 30 percent of Native American households remain without telephone service, let alone 21st century speed broadband, and called the status of broadband penetration on Native lands "a national disgrace."

We ask that you approach the issue of network neutrality with these facts of American Indian life in mind. Should the Commission intervene in the market it may dissuade private companies from investing in a way that will expand American Indians' access to broadband services, which would further divorce our people from the lifeblood of America's economy, undermine our ability to bring improved health care to our people, and deny our students a broadband-assisted education.

I know you understand what is at stake for our economy and for our country. I look forward to working with you and to addressing these concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

John R. Lewis
Executive Director