March 27, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Preserving the Open Internet, GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Future 500: Statement on the importance of high quality video communications to drive prosperity in the emerging low-carbon economy, promote energy and resource efficiency, provide viable alternatives to transportation of people and products, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve quality of life:

Future 500 believes that next generation broadband networks that enable high quality video communications are fundamental to a prosperous low-carbon economy.

Future 500 studies have documented the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to comprise a video communication "infostructure" that can dramatically improve quality of life while advancing a low-carbon economy that is sustainable both economically and environmentally.

Robust telepresence video communications can link people together in ways that come very close to the quality of direct person-to-person engagement, and even surpass it in some respects. This can reduce transportation needs as much as 60 percent. Perhaps more important, it can facilitate productive low-carbon wealth-producing activities such as education, social interaction, networking, collaboration, commerce, and more that would be impossible if physical transportation and transactions were required. For example:

1. Daily commutes to work: a holdover from the centralized factory and office jobs of the post-WWII era, become increasingly unnecessary as companies learn that many employees can do their jobs better from home, local work sites, or wherever they happen to be. At least 60% of travel can potentially be eliminated in this way.

2. Advanced web-based video communications can dramatically expand access to education and communication, and reduce the need for transportation and physical consumption, according to SMART 2020, a study by the Global Electronics Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and The Climate Group.

3. Internet communications promote independence; enabling people to participate in decisions that can improve their lives, whether through political and civic engagement in the U.S., social media and blogger activism in Iran and Vietnam, or the organizing of and worldwide awareness of the uprising of monks in Burma.

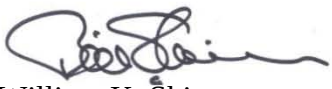
4. Communities can develop, rather than decline, when people can use ubiquitous Internet-based communication to improve their futures without abandoning their homes or ways of life.

5. Developed countries like the U.S. can drive down their carbon footprint year-on-year, while increasing prosperity, by fully leveraging the Internet and video communications. Developing countries that lead the way in telepresence could utterly leap past the age of consumptive economic expansion, and grow our economies while reducing the need for non-renewable energy and resources.

Future 500 is concerned that placing undue restrictions on the ICT sector that deter private sector investment in new, smart broadband networks and restrict reasonable network management practices could prove harmful to consumers and progress being made in low carbon technology solutions. Regulations with the potential to impede the development of networks that can enable the next generation of bandwidth-intensive, quality-sensitive applications and services and delay the implementation of the evolving robust infrastructure needed to support this next phase of economic and technological development should be avoided.

The implications of adopting new "net neutrality" policies call for careful consideration by the FCC.

Sincerely,



William K. Shireman
President