



March 30, 2010

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 Commissioners:

As the Chairman noted in his outline of America's 2020 Broadband Vision, "The economic benefits of broadband go hand-in-hand with social benefits and the potential for vast improvements in the quality of life for all Americans." As an organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of the nearly 12 million Asian Pacific Americans in the United States, OCA also recognizes broadband's capacity to changes lives in not just our community, but in all communities.

While the social benefits of broadband are a vital part of our nation's goals, the economic benefits are, perhaps, even more important during this time of economic stress. Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, and minority entrepreneurs play a particularly important role. While small businesses account for 60% of all new jobs, minority-owned businesses account for 50% of the 2 million businesses started in the U.S. According to a U.S. Census Bureau study, in 2002, Asian American-owned businesses numbered 1.1 million, and of those, nearly half (47 percent) were Chinese American-owned. While more recent data is due to be released in the coming year, it does provide a valuable insight on economic trends in business ownership and makes the case for continuing to encourage entrepreneurship in all communities. One way to aid entrepreneurship is to increase access to broadband.

While the Commission has demonstrated its dedication to broadband during the work on the National Broadband Plan, OCA is apprehensive that certain aspects of the Open Internet NPRM could undermine the spirit and intent of the plan. OCA is especially concerned with the addition of a fifth rule regarding Internet traffic prioritization. Entrepreneurs and small businesses often lack the resources or expertise that larger companies have access to when faced with interpreting the legal issues of regulation. Minority business owners already face a number of obstacles when starting a company and further regulation only adds another barrier to entry. Additionally,

in order to be competitive in the marketplace, new businesses must be able to differentiate themselves from established market powers – regulating the flexibility of business practices (i.e. treatment of data traffic) decreases opportunities for differentiation.

Before the Commission seeks to impose further regulations, which could act as barriers to entry for minority entrepreneurs, we encourage the Commission to first focus on expanding access to broadband in all communities. We know broadband can further the hopes and aspirations of not just those in the Asian Pacific American community, but of all Americans, and we look forward to the role it will play in our nation's economic future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George C. Wu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

George C. Wu, Esq.
Executive Director
OCA National Center