



Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

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

April 6, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City is an affiliate of the National Urban League and a United Way agency partner, serving over 15,000 clients annually. We work to assist African Americans, other minorities and the poor achieve social and economic equality. We work to accomplish this mission through advocacy, bridge-building, research and program services in five major areas: children and families; employment and training; affordable housing; minority entrepreneurship; and urban health.

Today, our website has become a hub for information about community resources and the programs that we provide. Our community has benefited from having a centralized place to get news and information. We also use broadband technology to help equip urban residents with the skills they will need to find jobs. However, for too many Americans, particularly those in rural and underserved communities, this type of access is not an option. Broadband technology is not yet universal, and we hope that the FCC will take some important steps to make ubiquitous access a reality.

We are optimistic about the Commission's National Broadband Plan. If implemented effectively, we believe that this Plan will help spur further broadband deployment and adoption. As African American broadband adoption rates still lag behind the national average, the National Broadband Plan will hopefully help to correct disparities in broadband access.

However, we are uneasy about some of the regulations contained in the Commission's Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Whereas the National Broadband Plan recognized the importance of investment to drive broadband deployment, we are concerned that the regulations in the NPRM will serve as a disincentive to investment, slowing the pace of broadband deployment and adoption.



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For African Americans and other unserved Oklahomans, we cannot afford to wait any longer for access. We urge the FCC to focus on policies that will expediently bring broadband to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valerie Thompson  
President & CEO