

April 6, 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:

The Illinois Business Roundtable (IBRT) is concerned that the net neutrality principles the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing will harm business development and create a negative impact on our economy; therefore, we believe the FCC should abstain from enacting new net neutrality principles and undertake a careful review of the effect of such principles on businesses.

The IBRT is a voluntary association of senior executives of Illinois' leading businesses, formed in 1989 to study, make recommendations, and take action on critical public policy issues facing Illinois. We strive to be a leader among states in public policies and private/public sector actions that encourage and achieve sustained economic growth and enhance the general welfare of our citizens. We focus on long-term, comprehensive issues where the unique perspective of our membership and the collective economic power and influence they represent can make an important contribution in resolving those issues. The future of broadband access is a long-term comprehensive issue that is of vital importance to us.

The future of our Internet requires investment, primarily from non-government sources. The level of investment from these private sources can be greatly diminished by government interference and over-regulation. Regarding broadband Internet, recent years have shown investment to be sizable. In fact, investment in broadband networks totaled some \$80 billion in 2009. This non-governmental investment helped expand broadband network deployment, providing access to formerly underserved or unserved communities that are prime areas for business expansion. Continued deployment to previously underserved and unserved areas will help to create sorely needed well-paying jobs and stimulate economic growth.

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These net neutrality principles threaten continued investment and innovation by creating burdensome regulations. In particular, the non-discrimination principle is especially detrimental because it will prohibit Internet service providers from managing their extensive wire line and wireless broadband networks. These regulations threaten the already open and accessible Internet and will inhibit network growth and innovation.

Broadband investment and access are critically important to the economic growth and success of Illinois businesses. Broadband investment and access will empower Illinois businesses as they grow and thrive in the digital economy. However, if the FCC chooses to move forward without studying the potential consequences of new net neutrality principles, we could see businesses struggle under the weight of added regulation and limited broadband access.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Mays". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jeffrey D. Mays, President
Illinois Business Roundtable