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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

April 7, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international membership organization fighting for social change. Our mission is to protect, defend, and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields, and to promote peace and justice around the world. After reviewing the Federal Communication Commission's National Broadband Plan, we are energized by its commitment to provide universal broadband access to all Americans. This pledge complements our purpose and mission, and we excited about the possibilities this service will offer to disadvantaged Americans across the country.

In the current industry-driven framework, innovation and competition have led to unprecedented rates of broadband deployment and adoption. The FCC recently reported that the total number of broadband connections in the United States was 132 million by the middle of 2008, compared to only 6.7 million at the end of 2000. Sustained private sector investment holds the promise of greater access to affordable broadband for 95 percent of Americans.

Unfortunately, broadband adoption continues to lag among minorities and low-income populations. Only 59 and 47 percent of African Americans and Hispanics have home broadband connections, respectively. But important usage trends suggest these populations are realizing the benefits of broadband at increased rates. At 77 percent, low-income Americans making less than \$20,000 annually overwhelmingly lead their more affluent counterparts in using the Internet to look for a job. As greater numbers of low-income and minority communities come online, these populations are

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., *Founder & President*
Martin L. King, *Chairman*
www.rainbowpush.org

statistically leading the nation in using the Internet to address important life issues, such as gaining access to affordable health care and exploring educational opportunities.

We want to make sure that the Commission's proposed rules will not have the unintended consequences of making broadband unaffordable to the countless disadvantaged Americans we serve. We continue to call on the Commission to conduct a facts-driven analysis of the possible impact that its planned regulations may have on deployment and adoption rates.

At the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, we consider ourselves to be a "voice for the voiceless." The quickest and most feasible way for low-income and minority individuals to attain a voice of their own is through broadband access and adoption. The FCC's pledge to make broadband a universal service is a testament to its commitment to Americans' digital equality.

We hope the Commission will move to implement the positive recommendations set forth in the National Broadband Plan and will refrain from policies that may impede speedy and ubiquitous broadband deployment and adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse L. Jackson, Sr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President