



Los Angeles Urban League

April 6, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Congratulations on the release of the Federal Communication Commission's National Broadband Plan. It is an important step in moving the country closer to ubiquitous high speed Internet access. As president and CEO of The Los Angeles Urban League, I have seen first hand how access to education and information can empower people and their community – and undeniably, the Internet has become a powerful informational and educational resource. Universal broadband in America is especially essential for lower-income communities, which is why I encourage you to do all you can to help underserved communities secure affordable high speed Internet access so they can share in all the benefits that many take for granted.

It appears possible the FCC's ambitious plans may not be realized. Your plan estimates that achieving broadband ubiquity will require \$350 billion, yet the President's broadband stimulus package allocates only a small fraction of that amount. It seems the only way to pay for it may well be with the help of the private sector. Yet, net neutrality regulations could prevent network operators from making significant investments to the nation's broadband infrastructure if such regulations prevent them from managing their networks or recovering the costs of the necessary expansion and upgrades. Moreover, regulation could potentially have the unintended consequence of raising the price consumers pay for these services. This could mean that low income communities may not benefit from high speed Internet, if access is not affordable.

In short, I ask that you please carefully consider how current actions under consideration may affect the realization of your National Broadband Plan and the communities it is intended to help.

Sincerely,

Blair H. Taylor
Los Angeles Urban League

Cc: Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
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