



55 Exchange Place, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10005
T. 212 233 8955 F. 212 233 8996

1522 K Street N.W., Suite 1130
Washington, DC 20005-1225
T. 202 842 0235 F. 202 887 0812

www.hispanicfederation.org

April 8, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

***RE: In the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet (GN Docket No. 09-191) and
Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)***

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

On behalf of Hispanic Federation, and its over 100 affiliate agencies, I write today to urge you to make the Commission's top priority the expansion of broadband availability to every American community and broadband adoption to every American household. The Hispanic Federation shares the concerns raised by many of our partner organizations in the Hispanic and civil rights community regarding the potential negative impact of new net neutrality rules on the affordability and continued deployment of high-speed internet.

Broadband has become essential to the American Dream. Access to this technology is the great equalizer; without it, families in underserved communities truly are denied equal opportunity to participate fully in America's economic, political, cultural and social life. As you know, with broadband, children from low-income families can access instantly the vast educational resources of the Internet, voters can educate themselves on the issues with the sources they choose, and an unemployed parent can apply for jobs nationwide while taking an online course to enhance their skills and employability.

The Commission has a unique opportunity to foster broadband adoption in neighborhoods that most need access to computers with fast connections to the Internet. Today, two thirds of all Americans access broadband services. While Latinos are making rapid advances in adoption of broadband services, the Commission can help ensure more Latino communities are connected by promulgating policies that encourage investment and job creation.

Yet the Plan estimates the potential cost of universal next-generation broadband at \$350 billion – and bandwidth demand is doubling every other year. This cost cannot be met without substantial investments and strategic public-private partnerships.

After carefully examining this issue of adoption and access from several points of view, we have determined that the key policy priority should be on fostering adoption, access and digital literacy all while establishing a policy framework that encourages investment, deployment and affordable access without the stifling effects that come when too many unnecessary regulatory hurdles are placed in anticipation of problems.

A flexible policy approach from the Commission will go a long way in helping all of us reach the same goal—a nation where everyone is connected and capable of benefiting from the many important tools available to us every day on the Internet. We encourage the Commission to let the Internet thrive without new “net neutrality” regulations that will likely dampen private-sector investment in broadband expansion and possibly shift the cost of broadband expansion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez
President