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May 24, 2010,

Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Received & Inspected  
JUN - 1 2010  
FCC Mail Room

Re. *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, 09-137

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are responding to the proposed National Broadband Plan that was submitted to United States Congress on March 17th. Our organization is interested in transforming the technology landscape of America by making sure affordable high speed broadband is available to all people of the United States.

Concurrent with the Commission submission of the National Broadband Plan (NBP), the Latin Economic Forum, Inc. (LEF) is interested in publicly commenting on the plan. That said, we want to reiterate our organization's position in connection with several public policy recommendations raised in the plan. Specifically, broadband deployment and adoption; universal service reform; and accessibility.

LEF is a leading 501 (c) (3) non profit organization for the U.S Hispanic and Latin America community. It has strategic relationships with over 500 Hispanic non profit organizations in the U.S. LEF annual Telecommunications Conference at the United Nations empowers nonprofits focused on health care, education, national security and energy. And will be directly impacted by the potential recommendations in the Commission's National Broadband Plan.

As evidenced by the thousands of filings submitted in response to the Commission's request for comments on the *Notice of Inquiry*, Public Notices, and the Workshops released in conjunction with the Plan, its development is clearly considered an essential

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element to American economic recovery and many facets of American life. The Plan should be “focused, practical, and achievable” in order to ensure broadband deployment and adoption for all people of the United States. To achieve this goal, LEF strongly urges the Commission to incorporate the following policy recommendations outlined below into the Plan.

- increase investment in infrastructure and commit some economic stimulus funds to promote more widespread deployment and utilization of high-speed Internet.
- Adopt consumer-friendly tax policies that are needed to ensure that Hispanics, along with other minority and lower-income populations, can continue to afford wireless broadband services.
- Lifeline/Link-Up programs should continue to offer discounts to qualified, low-income wireless customers. Federal Communications Commission policies in support of a wireless broadband, direct-to-consumer subsidy must provide immediate help for lower-income U.S Hispanics to be able to afford subscriptions to wireless broadband services. These policies are essential to help Hispanics make a complete transition to mobile participation in the new American innovation economy.
- Expand the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service Broadband Program and target the program to places that currently do not have non-satellite broadband available.
- Reform the federal Universal Service Fund program to extend support for rural broadband to all carriers, and consider providing the funding through a reverse auction mechanism.
- Promote the widespread use of a national, user-generated, Internet-based broadband mapping system that would track location, speed, and price of broadband.
- Support initiatives around the nation to encourage broadband usage and digital literacy.
- Exempt broadband Internet access from federal, state, and local taxes.



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- Support new applications, including putting more public content online, improving e-government, and supporting telework, telemedicine, and online learning programs.

By adopting these recommendations, U.S. policymakers would give broadband providers the economic incentives to invest in broadband infrastructure both in rural and urban areas of the country and give consumers the incentives to subscribe to broadband, particularly higher speed broadband. Ultimately, this would give all people of the United States the COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE they need to compete in a fiercely competitive global marketplace.

Sincerley,

  
Arthur Navarro, Founder

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