



July 15, 2010

Ron Busby
President

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Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 10-127

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

The United States Black Chamber, Inc. (USBC) provides committed and visionary leadership and advocacy in the realization of economic empowerment through the creation of resources and initiatives to support African American Chambers of Commerce and business organizations in their work of developing and growing Black enterprises. Black business owners are a powerful constituency. We are an economic force. There are 1.2 million privately held black-owned businesses, across every industry sector in the United States. We employ over 750,000 people and generate \$88.6 billion in annual revenue.

As a community, we have been participants in advocacy for years and have had significant impact on the legislative agenda. We take the process seriously. We vote. Our endorsements have weight. In addition, by a wide margin, black business owners across demographic groups place a significant degree of trust in the endorsements of the USBC.

Based on the best interest of our members, USBC urges the Federal Communications Commission continue to classify broadband Internet as an “information service.” USBC requests that the FCC carefully consider the implication of reclassifying broadband as a “telecommunication service” or under the “third way” approach.

Less than half of African Americans regularly use the Internet, yet an overwhelming majority agrees that Internet access is critical to our communities success in education, business, community and family life. USBC supports the FCC’s broadband plan and encourages the Commission to move forward with ensuring affordable universal Internet access. Additionally, USBC believes the broadband plan is essentially for the continuation of small business growth.

USBC is concerned that the proposed reclassification of broadband would impose additional regulations on the Internet and this would ultimately hinder investments, access, the adoption of broadband, jeopardizing the businesses of our members, result in increased prices and decreased flexibility. The success of small businesses depends on access to the latest technology

and innovation at an affordable price.

One recent study estimated that a seven-percentage point increase in broadband adoption “could result in [direct annual income growth of] \$92 billion through an additional 2.4 million jobs created or saved annually, \$662 million saved per year in reduced healthcare costs...and \$134 billion per year in total direct economic impact of accelerating broadband across the United States,” states the U.S. Department of Commerce.

We strongly agree that the development of an all-inclusive broadband approach is good for our country. Our President’s commitment to provide long term economic stability is commendable and the broadband plan must be a critical part of this strategy.

Thank you, and we look forward to working together with you and our membership, to bring this plan into reality.

In the Spirit of Success,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Busby". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "R" and "B".

Ron Busby
President & CEO
The United States Black Chamber, Inc.