

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Framework for Broadband Internet Service ) GN Docket No. 10-127  
 )

COMMENTS OF YOURTEL AMERICA, INC.

**Introduction**

YourTel America, Inc. (“YourTel” or “Company”), respectfully submits these Comments in response to the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 request of the Federal Communications Commission<sup>1</sup> for comments on the questions presented in the Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”) regarding “...an open, public process to consider the adequacy of the current legal framework within which the Commission promotes investment and innovation in, and protects consumers of, broadband Internet service.”

YourTel is a small, minority owned telecommunications carrier headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri that provides local and long distance services to low-income customers in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Illinois. YourTel has been designated as an ETC by the public utility commissions in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Illinois has been an active participant in the USF low-income Lifeline and Link Up program since 2003 and a consistent vocal supporter of Broadband access for the underserved. The vast majority of YourTel’s customers are Lifeline eligible, are still struggling to gain affordable access to the information superhighway, 95% of

---

<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Framework for Broadband Internet Service*, GN Docket No. 10-127, Notice of Inquiry, FCC 10-114 (rel. June 17, 2010).

them did not have telephone service prior to purchasing YourTel's services and virtually none of YourTel America's lifeline customers have broadband. Therefore, YourTel is well positioned to provide experienced comment and insight on this matter, and stands ready to follow the FCC's leadership in bringing broadband to the underserved.

## **COMMENTS**

YourTel has expended considerable time and effort over several years exploring any opportunity that might exist to make affordable Broadband available and adoptable for its low-income residential consumers. The special needs of these consumers with the economic and social challenges and obstacles they face make them and the carriers such as YourTel that understand how to serve them unique and important in the mission of universal Broadband access. However, over these years, despite its best attempts, YourTel has encountered nothing but roadblocks. Naked DSL, wholesale access and even purchasing DSL at retail have all been denied to YourTel. The lack of flexible, available resources and partnerships for residential products has created an unserved population in areas where they could be served given the correct regulatory vision.

Whatever legal framework the Commission decides to adopt as the framework for universal Broadband, it is vitally important that the structure allows low-income urban consumers to subscribe to broadband. YourTel America is again investing in the city core and will soon begin construction of a Broadband network designed to meet the needs of underserved consumers. This investment only makes sense where we have a dense telephone customer base to transition to broadband. For this investment to expand, the existing networks (both telephone and cable) must be made available to companies like YourTel for enough time for them to gain

enough density to make continued network investment prudent. Simply put, the status quo has not achieved the goal of subscribership. Investment for the sake of investment, albeit meritorious in its own right is now less important than results. Everything must be done in order to fulfill the Broadband mandate and if that includes requiring wholesale access to Broadband networks, then that discussion needs to take place.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schmick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dale Schmick  
Chief Strategy Officer  
YOURTEL AMERICA, INC  
2800 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
816-388-1000 Tel  
dschmick@yourtel.com

Dated: July 15, 2010