

August 24, 2010

Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE *Framework for Broadband Internet Service*, GN Docket No. 10-127; *Preserving the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 09-191; *Broadband Industry Practices*, WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As an emerging coalition of organizations that represent that Latino community, the members of Latinos for Internet Freedom are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to reclassify broadband and re-establish the agency's authority to protect our Internet freedom and adopt policies that ensure all Latinos have access to open, world-class broadband networks.

The organizations in our coalition represent Latino journalists, farmers, youth, artists and cultural workers, community organizers, health care workers, educators, service providers, faith communities, and more.

The Internet is developing during a time when our country is experiencing the greatest demographic shift in its history. While people of color currently make up 35 percent of the U.S. population, they are projected to make up a majority of the population within only a few decades. Latinos are our nation's largest "minority" group, making up 15 percent of the population, and that figure is expected to climb to 25 percent within the next few decades as well.

It is critical that our community has access to broadband. Just 49 percent of all Latino households have broadband access, and the figure is much lower for poorer Latino households. If the FCC does not re-establish its authority, it will be unable to ensure full broadband adoption in Latino communities, to protect the consumer rights of Latino broadband users to open networks, or to revamp the Universal Service Fund, including the Lifeline/Link-Up programs that subsidize broadband build-out and access for rural and poorer households.

We launched Latinos for Internet Freedom to preserve an open Internet and prevent broadband companies from discriminating online and creating a tiered Internet with fast and slow lanes. Creating a tiered Internet would allow broadband companies to favor certain content and applications over others. We support strong Network Neutrality rules that will ensure our nation avoids repeating past mistakes that have kept our public voice at the margins, such as failing to adopt and preserve rules that encouraged people of color to own radio and television stations.

We also urge the FCC to pass strong Network Neutrality rules that prevent phone and cable companies from creating a “private” Internet through “managed services” that would allow a few big companies to pay to speed up their online content while stifling the growth of the “public Internet.” These Network Neutrality rules must apply to both wireless and wireline broadband services.

An open Internet provides the Latino community with the lowest barriers to entry of any communications network, allowing Latinos to create their own online presence as well as serve the news, entertainment, and informational needs of our community. Full adoption of an open Internet is critical for the democratic engagement and economic advancement of the entire Latino community.

The FCC must reestablish its authority to ensure the full adoption of broadband of all Latinos, and protect the online rights of our digital communities by passing strong Network Neutrality rules.

Sincerely,

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