



April 12, 2011

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

**RE: *Ex Parte Letter via Electronic Filing***

- WC Docket No. 03-109: *Lifeline and Link-Up*
- WC Docket No. 05-337: *High-Cost Universal Service Support*
- WC Docket No. 10-90: *Connect America Fund*
- GN Docket No. 09-51: *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*
- GN Docket No. 10-25: *The Future of Media and Information Needs of Communities In A Digital Age*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This *ex parte* letter reports on an April 11, 2011 meeting with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Angela Kronenberg, Wireline Legal Advisor, and Louis Peraertz, Legal Advisor, Wireless, International, and Public Safety. Attending the meeting from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (“Joint Center”) were Joseph Miller, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Director, Lindsay Boroush, Policy and Communications Manager, and myself.

**Identifying Drivers And Their Impact On Consumer Broadband Adoption**

The Joint Center seeks to understand more fully the factors impacting broadband adoption. For example, a perceived lack of online privacy may militate against broadband adoption. This underscores the need to develop policies to educate all consumers, in a contextually relevant way, as to how they must manage their personal information online.

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.  
April 12, 2011  
Page Two

### **Expanding Broadcast and New Media Ownership Diversity**

The convergence of previously unrelated platforms necessitates rethinking how the Commission should approach its diversity mandate. This is at least as urgent as reconfiguring the Commission's role with respect to areas previously considered ancillary to the Commission's authority. As the Commission is aware, the federal government can play an important role in helping to create incentives to promote Science Technology Engineering and Math ("STEM") programs. This race-neutral mechanism for promoting diversity in new media is critically important as the Commission pursues its Future of Media agenda.

### **Proposing Cooperation and Interagency Coordination**

The Joint Center maintains that further interagency coordination is needed between federal agencies to ensure accountability in any approaches toward addressing the needs of the underserved. Through cooperation between entities, programs can be instituted that empower not only youth, but also the existing workforce.

### **Strengthening the Commission's Commitment to Promoting the Use of Communications Technology to Address the Needs of the Poor**

As developing countries around the world capitalize on the advantages of mobile broadband, including mobile banking, the Joint Center sees this as an opportunity to engage discussion around developing similar, scalable pilot programs within the United States. The Joint Center seeks to evaluate such programs and recommends that the Commission work in closer partnership with the Office of e-Diplomacy of the Department of State to enhance the role of communications technology in addressing humanitarian concerns in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Nicol Turner-Lee*

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Media and Technology Institute

