



August 2, 2011

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

RE: *Ex Parte Letter*

- GN Docket No. 09-137: *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act*
- WC Docket No. 09-51: *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This reports on an August 1, 2011 meeting between Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, David Grimaldi, Chief of Staff and Media Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, Angela Kronenberg, Wireline Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, Eva Torres, Intern in the Office of Commissioner Clyburn, Ying Li, Research Associate at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Media and Technology Institute ("MTI"), Corey Walker, MTI Google Policy Fellow, Gavin Logan, MTI Intern, Alicia Durfee, Special Projects Manager and Development Assistant at MTI, Olivia Gusman, Intern at MTI, Marlon Twyman, Intern at MTI, Camille Hawkins, Intern at MTI, Lindsay Boroush, Policy and Communications Manager at MTI, Joseph Miller, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Director of MTI, and myself.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Commission on the current studies regarding broadband adoption that the Joint Center is undertaking and to discuss with the Commission information and data the Commission feels would be useful in its inquiry pursuant to Section 706 of the Communications Act. We discussed the following issues:

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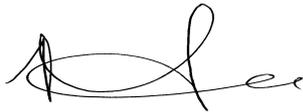
- The Commission should make a continued effort to engage diverse communities to ensure policies are fully informed by the varying perspectives of all Americans.
- We discussed the Commission's upcoming Universal Service Fund reforms to spur infrastructure investment and an increase in broadband adoption rates. Specifically, the Commission should work to ensure that broadband access and adoption disparities are addressed in both unserved rural areas and under-served pockets in urban areas, where people of color are densely populated.
- The Joint Center will be embarking on a study on how low-income job seekers use the web to find employment. The Joint Center will be paying particular attention to possible disparities between job seekers seeking work online and those seeking work via word-of-mouth hiring: African-Americans and Latinos disproportionately search for jobs online.¹
- Subscriber data alone reveals little about overall broadband adoption trends. Recovery Act initiatives should be assessed much more granularly to determine the success of Recovery Act programs and how they can be reconfigured to meet the specific demands of unserved and underserved populations.
- More efforts must be made to create broader surveys that account for Asian-Americans who do not speak English or Spanish. The Joint Center is currently refining its research approaches to ensure that Asian Americans are accounted for as we move toward ensuring that all Americans have the tools and information they need to be full online participants.

We also discussed ways in which the Joint Center might assist the Commission in determining the types of data that are needed to create a more complete picture of broadband adoption disparities. We concluded that there may be several ways in which the Joint Center can work with the Commission, such as working to determine what the value propositions are for new adopters, and how to apply key principles to drive both the creation and consumption of online content by women and people of color.

¹ See JON P. GANT ET AL., NATIONAL MINORITY BROADBAND ADOPTION: COMPARATIVE TRENDS IN ADOPTION, ACCEPTANCE AND USE 30 (Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 2010) ("Joint Center Report") available at http://www.jointcenter.org/publications1/publication-PDFs/MTI_BROADBAND_REPORT_2.pdf (last visited August 2, 2011) ("Among families with an annual income of \$50,000, 76% of African Americans and 70% of Hispanics go online for job searches as compared to 62% of Whites. Among families with an annual income of \$20,000 to \$50,000, 73% of African American and 73% of Hispanics go online for job searches as compared to only 38% of Whites.").

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicol Turner-Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nicol Turner-Lee, Ph.D.
Vice President & Director, Media and Technology Institute
The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies