

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW 20024  
Washington, DC

**Re: Ex Parte Notice**

*In the matter of a National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link Up; Universal Service Reform, WC Docket No. 11-42, 2010 Quadrennial Review -Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; MB Docket No 09-182, In the Matter of Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services, WC Docket No. 12-375*

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Congratulations on your confirmation to chair the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Your leadership of the FCC comes at a critical time for our country. Now more than ever, we need an FCC that uses its authority to govern--we need an FCC that will stand up to corporate interests, and champion the needs of communities of color, America's poor, native nations and immigrant communities.

The organizations represented on this letter are leaders of the Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net). Collectively, our 170 members are working together for media change to end poverty, eliminate racism, and ensure human rights. Today these undersigned organizations are writing to welcome you to the Federal Communications Commission, and invite you to meet with us.

Across the country, our members live and work on the frontlines of media access, rights and representation. Our communities experience the real-world consequences of a media system that has failed to adequately inform, connect, or engage us. We lack broadband and wireless connections that are affordable, reliable, and open to everyone. We live with hate-speech on our public airwaves. We are threatened by attacks on Universal Service subsidies and community media. In all directions, we face a corporate media that pads its pockets at the expense of our community's health and wellbeing. **We know this is wrong, and we believe you do to.**



It doesn't have to be this way. Together, we can interrupt this devastation and disconnection. We invite you to begin this journey with us, by familiarizing yourself with these critical issues--outside the beltway--in our communities.

Join us in cities across the country to learn about:

- The [Show Your Support for Lifeline](#) campaign in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and [a statewide campaign to protect and improve Lifeline in California](#);
- A post BTOP [Media and Communications Institute](#) working for Digital Inclusion in Philadelphia, PA;
- A fight to build [affordable and reliable community broadband networks](#) in Minneapolis, North Carolina, and many other cities;
- The expansion of community radio led by the Prometheus Project in the [Twin Cities](#), [Seattle](#), [Albuquerque](#), and more;
- Building secure communications networks with [Technologists of Color](#) in New York
- In-state fights to lower prison phone rates in the states of [Washington](#), Florida, [California](#) and Louisiana;

These are just a few examples of the communities ready to welcome you, and we have over 100 more! Between January and May 2014, we invite you to witness both the challenges and victories that live in our communities. Now is the time to step outside the beltway and see the innovation that local communities are using to solve complex problems, for yourself. When you are ready, we are too!

Sincerely,

amalia deloney  
Policy Director, Center for Media Justice, CA

### MAG-Net Anchor Organizations

1. Alanna Offield, Media Literacy Project, NM
2. Nick Szuberla, Working Narratives, NC
3. Tracy Rosenberg, Media Alliance, CA
4. Kat Vann, Main Street Project, MN
5. Thom Clark, Community Media Workshop, IL
6. Laura Muraida, Southwest Workers Union, TX



7. Andrea Figueroa, Martinez Street Women's Center, TX
8. Sage Crum, Art Is Change, GA
9. Pedro Joel Espinosa, Instituto de Educación Popular Del Sur de California (IDEPSCA), CA
10. Danielle Chynoweth, Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center, IL
11. Hilary Goldstein, May First/People Link, NY
12. Bryan Mercer, Media Mobilizing Project, PA
13. Elandria Williams, Highlander Research and Education Center, TN