



# South Carolina House of Representatives

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June 17, 2014

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Clyburn:

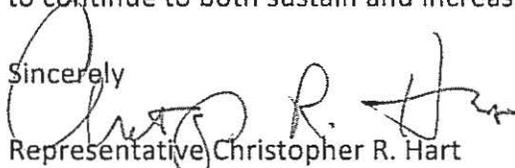
For the past seven years I have had the privilege of serving my community as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. As a legislator and a longtime resident of Columbia, South Carolina, I directly see the impact of federal and state rules and regulations on local communities. Particularly for people of color, whose lives are all too often complicated by the legal and regulatory structures surrounding them, I pause when well-intended policies bear the potential to undermine progress and prospects for achieving greater socio-economic parity.

Here in South Carolina, broadband serves as a platform for opportunity. It is responsible for job creation, supporting entrepreneurship, online learning, and telemedicine innovations, and it provides my constituents with access to an array of life-enhancing services and applications. Broadband has flourished from record private sector investment and light touch regulatory policies from the government. Add to the mix public-private partnerships that expedite broadband deployment to areas in need, and you have the recipe for continued success and opportunities in this space.

I support Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler's middle of the road approach to broadband oversight and regulation. Unlike Title II reclassification, which would dramatically alter the regulatory and practical environment of the broadband sector, Chairman Wheeler's approach ensures adequate consumer protections as well as continued incentives for investment and innovation in this space. Reclassifying broadband as a public utility would set in motion unknown variables for the broadband sector, and at a time when communities need it most, we cannot afford to jeopardize the growth that we have witnessed in both broadband deployment and in the applications and services it enables.

Compromise and regulatory restraint are two principles that I have learned can often create the best opportunities for my constituents. They are principles of general applicability that pertain to places and situations across the country as well. Chairman Wheeler's plan for the future of broadband bears in mind both of these principles, and it is a plan we should follow if we hope to continue to both sustain and increase growth and investment in this space.

Sincerely

  
Representative Christopher R. Hart