



October 15, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We appreciate your efforts to ensure that the Internet remains the open and accessible engine of growth it has been since its advent. Like you, we agree with the President that the Internet plays a critical role in making our health care system more efficient, our energy future “smarter” and more secure, and our education system better able to provide students and workers with access to the resources necessary to succeed academically and in today’s extremely challenging job market. As you have recently highlighted, the Internet serves Americans from all walks of life in ways large and small and most importantly in ways that have led to the creation of many thousands of middle class jobs.

We also applaud your leadership role in the recently convened national broadband plan workshops. In particular, we appreciate the consensus building, data driven approach you encouraged during this process. These deliberations were remarkable not only for their inclusivity but for their analytic rather than conclusive approaches. As both participants and observers of these proceedings, we look forward to continuing to work with you in this collaborative fashion to ensure that a robust and dynamic Internet continues to serve as a platform for innovation and job growth.

As you know, there is broad agreement that the broadband sector represents “a vibrant and well-functioning marketplace,” to quote a recent *Washington Post* editorial. Indeed this sector has been one of the few bright spots in our economy – where investments in broadband networks are estimated to exceed \$80 billion. It is imperative that this investment engine continues to drive deployment, jobs and economic growth.

That is why we are concerned by the initial reports of the content of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that is circulating in the net neutrality matter. While your speech promised the kind of open, collaborative approach that we have experienced in the National Broadband inquiry, the NPRM apparently contains highly controversial conclusions before these complex issues are fully explored.

The Honorable Julius Genachowski

October 15, 2009

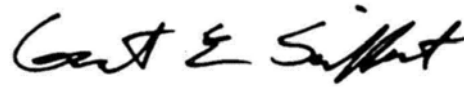
Page 2

We respectfully suggest that you instead begin this process by attempting to develop consensus on the key issues and avoid conclusions that would cause divisions inside and outside the Commission. It is important that the Commission implement a fact-driven approach that seeks counsel before it reaches conclusions. The goal must be to develop balanced and pragmatic policies that ensure both increased consumer choice and ever more investment in the broadband infrastructure that is the platform for the continued growth of a vibrant, open and robust Internet. We look forward to working with you on this most important proceeding.

Sincerely,



Walter B. McCormick, Jr.  
President and CEO  
United States Telecom Association



Grant Seiffert  
President  
Telecommunications Industry Association



Steve Largent  
President & CEO  
CTIA – The Wireless Association



Curt Stamp  
President  
Independent Telephone and  
Telecommunications Alliance

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker