

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

For the past year, Americans have struggled through the worst economic decline since the Great Depression. While there has been significant debate regarding how to foster economic recovery, we have sought to encourage investment as a means of stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

For that reason, we are extremely surprised and disappointed by the apparent direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on broadband policy. Rather than focus its resources on completing its statutorily mandated National Broadband Plan by February 2010, the Chairman of the FCC has announced that he intends to divert the FCC's resources to drafting so-called network neutrality regulations.

We believe that network neutrality regulations would actually thwart further broadband investment and availability, and that a well-reasoned broadband plan would confirm our view. So to hastily begin the process of adopting network neutrality rules months before issuing such a plan implies that politics are driving the FCC's decision-making process.

We urge you to encourage the FCC to refocus its priorities on properly examining the broadband market and completing its broadband plan. The FCC should not proceed with imposing network neutrality regulations. We believe that, if the FCC truly scrutinizes the facts, it will find that the broadband market is characterized by competition and innovation to the benefit of consumers.


More importantly, we believe that, to achieve widespread broadband deployment, the broadband plan will conclude that private sector investment will be the cornerstone of further deployment. U.S. broadband networks have been built and upgraded by hundreds of billions of dollars in private investment. But that private sector investment has occurred in the absence of stifling regulations.

If the FCC micromanages broadband network management, broadband investment will be in jeopardy. As Americans wade through the present economic situation, a decision by the FCC to discourage broadband investment would be irresponsible. The United States needs broadband providers to increase investment and create jobs. This will not occur if broadband providers are saddled with unnecessary,

burdensome requirements that interfere with their ability to manage their networks and create innovative broadband products that maximize consumer choice and benefit.

We all share the common goal of restoring America's economic vitality. The FCC should not undermine that goal by imposing harmful regulations that will delay economic recovery and deprive Americans of faster, more sophisticated broadband services.

Sincerely,


John Boehner
Republican Leader


Eric Cantor
Republican Whip

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski, Federal Communications Commission