



Chairman Julius Genachowski
 Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
 Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
 Commissioner Michael J. Copps
 Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

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

Re: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52), National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry (WC Docket 09-51)

October 14, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

We have been honored to work with the Commission on the pending National Broadband Plan. The creation of the National Broadband Plan, in our minds, must remain the Commission’s highest and singular policy priority at this time because it is through the Plan that the nation can at last close the digital divide and bring broadband to all Americans. In particular, as Congress has mandated pursuant to the ARRA’s broadband provisions, ensuring 100% access and adoption is the next great challenge for our nation, and particularly the communities we represent.

As organizations that serve communities that are among the most severely impacted by a lack of access to technology, we urge you to keep your number one focus on the need to get everyone connected. We are concerned that some of the proposed regulations on the Internet could, as applied, inhibit the goal of universal access and leave disenfranchised communities further behind. We are also concerned that some proposed regulations could inhibit investments being made by companies employing hundreds of thousands of workers and connecting millions to the opportunities that broadband technology affords to those in our community – from telemedicine to distance learning to applying for jobs online.

The consequences for our communities under a system of net neutrality regulations would be far-reaching. The core concept of an open Internet, operated transparently, is highly desirable and we support it wholeheartedly. But the nation can’t afford to get this wrong. Depending on how it is

defined, interpreted and applied, it's conceivable that some of the elements of net neutrality may be particularly detrimental to groups that we represent.

Therefore, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ought to include the framework and a request for comment that would produce a careful and empirical analysis of the impact that these regulations would have on people with disabilities, low-income, minority, multilingual, elderly and young Americans. The Commission needs to ensure that net neutrality would not delay bridging the digital divide by altering consumer prices and discouraging broadband adoption and deployment. We would hope that nothing in the NPRM reflects presumed conclusions until such an analysis is complete.

In the end, the Commission's continued focus on deployment and adoption of broadband technologies is what will deliver greater economic opportunity for everyone, especially those in greatest need for it. The FCC should focus its energy and resources on moving us closer towards the development of the National Broadband Plan, ensuring deployment to those without access, and providing those who have yet to adopt the benefits with solid information on the transformative power of broadband technology in today's global online economy.

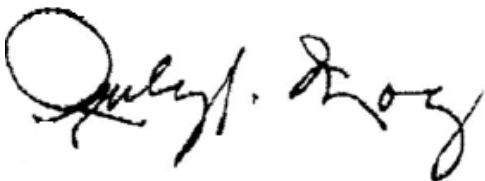
Sincerely,



Albert E. Dotson, Jr
Chairman of the Board
100 Black Men of America



Karen Narasaki
President & Executive Director
Asian American Justice Center



Ruby G Moy
Interim Executive Director
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies



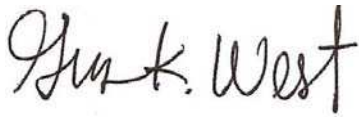
Ronald Blackburn-Moreno
President & CEO
ASPIRA



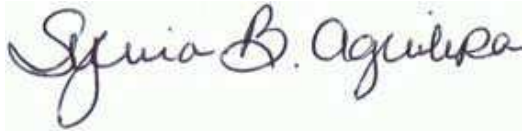
Dr. Valerie D. White
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Hispanic Institute



Sylvia Aguilera
Executive Director
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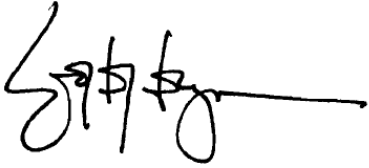
S. Floyd Mori
National Executive Director
Japanese American Citizens League



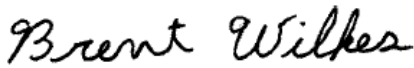
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