The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express both our hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings focused on the deployment and use of broadband networks.

We applaud the Commission’s effort to gather information about broadband and its recognition of the significant progress achieved to date, progress that is a direct result of policies that have encouraged competition and private investment and relied on the exercise of regulatory restraint. A decade ago, broadband was a nascent service, and only one percent of U.S. households connected to the Internet through broadband lines; today by contrast, roughly two-thirds of Americans connect through high-speed connections that are available to ninety-five percent of households. While we have further to go as a nation in extending the benefits of broadband to all, it is our strong belief that continued progress in expanding the reach and capabilities of broadband networks will require the Commission to reiterate, and not repudiate, its historic commitment to competition, private investment and a restrained regulatory approach.

As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of “net neutrality,” we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts will reveal the critical role that competition and private investment have played -- and of necessity will continue to play -- in building robust broadband networks that are safe, secure and open. In light of the growth and innovation in new applications that the current regime has enabled, as compared to the limited evidence demonstrating any tangible harm, we would urge you to avoid tentative conclusions which favor government regulation.

Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation and growth that we all seek to achieve.
Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

John Tanner  
Member of Congress

Michael McMahon  
Member of Congress

Ed Towns  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

John Barrow  
Member of Congress

Walt Minnick  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Travis Childers  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress
Suzanne Kosmas  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Bobby Bright  
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Lincoln Davis  
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Tim Holden  
Member of Congress

Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz  
Member of Congress

Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress

Frank Kratovil, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress

Allen Boyd  
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress
Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell