



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: National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry (WC Docket 09-51)

October 14, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Women Impacting Public Policy, Inc. (WIPP) is a national bi-partisan public policy organization that advocates for and on behalf of women and minorities in business in the legislative processes of our nation, creating economic opportunities and building bridges and alliances to other small business organizations. Through WIPP, our collective voice makes a powerful impact on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. Pursuant to our goals, WIPP urges the Federal Communications Commission to carefully consider the impact of the October 22nd net neutrality order set to impose net neutrality regulations on the internet.

As you know from our previous correspondence, we are opposed to additional regulation, as we feel it is more of a hindrance to progress. In this instance, specifically, we are opposed to net neutrality regulations that would ultimately hinder investment, access, and the adoption of broadband, jeopardizing the businesses of our members, result in increased prices and decreased flexibility. Small businesses depend on access to the latest technology and innovation at an affordable price.

WIPP believes that consumer demand, innovation in technology, and competition between providers should drive changes in the telecommunication sector rather than government imposed regulation.

As a part of the upcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on net neutrality regulations, the Commission must explore the impact its actions will have on women and minority businesses.

Broadband is a vital tool for economic success, creating more jobs and making businesses more efficient and competitive. More directly, some of the businesses we represent are part of the broadband and information technology industries, which in 2008 created more than half of all new jobs in America. A recent economic impact study commissioned by the Center for Women's Business Research cited that women business owners employ 23 million people in America, 16% of the US workforce. Therefore, not only should the Commission review impacts on specific groups, but it should look at the overall economic impact.

Recently the Commission announced that in order to achieve universal broadband access throughout the United States, \$350 billion of additional funds are required. This presents a huge opportunity for small businesses in the private sectors to participate in the dramatic expansion of broadband access. Yet, net neutrality regulations will seemingly remove much of the incentive from investing and participating in broadband infrastructure projects. This would be regrettable, especially knowing that the telecommunications sector invests more in broadband than the federal government invests in all forms of transportation, according to a study by Empiris. As the Commission moves forward through the October 22nd open meeting and on to the completion of the National Broadband Plan, WIPP would like to see data documenting the extent to which women and minority businesses are affected by whatever regulations are produced.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Kasoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Kasoff, President
Women Impacting Public Policy, Inc.