



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner <sup>Rob</sup>McDowell:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter on the topic of agency reform. You raise issues of great interest and importance to me. As I stated in my Senate confirmation testimony, the American people deserve an FCC that works and is a model for excellence in government. They deserve an FCC that uses taxpayer dollars wisely, and efficiently and effectively achieves the goals Congress has set out for it; encourages and facilitates participation by all stakeholders; reaches fair and timely decisions; and serves the public interest. I look forward to working with the Commission's staff; with the American public and agency stakeholders; and with you, Commissioner Copps, and our future colleagues to ensure that the FCC achieves these critical goals.

I believe FCC reform is a matter of great urgency. One of my first acts as Chairman was to announce the appointment of Mary Beth Richards as Special Counsel for FCC Reform, to ensure high-level attention to this vitally important issue. I have also tasked the agency's General Counsel and Managing Director (in close cooperation with all the other Bureaus and Offices of the agency) to work with Ms. Richards to perform a thorough review of the FCC's existing processes and to make recommendations for improvement and reform. In addition, I have begun a process of meeting personally with managers in all the agency's Bureaus and Offices to learn about their ideas for revitalizing and retooling the agency. And beginning this week, the FCC will open an internal website (Reboot.FCC.gov) to solicit reform proposals from every FCC employee. The website will later become publicly accessible, allowing the agency to receive reform ideas from all interested parties.

The ongoing review process described above will provide a framework for institutionalizing the values of openness, participation, fairness, efficiency, and accountability that I know you, Commissioner Copps, and I all share. The review will address the important areas you identify in your letter—operational, financial, and ethical; the FCC's strategic plan; potential restructuring; ways to improve external and internal communications; and coordination with other facets of government—as well as others that agency staff, the public and interested parties, and our fellow Commissioners

may suggest. I am mindful that a statutory responsibility of my position as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the FCC is to “promote prompt and efficient disposition of all matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.” 47 U.S.C. § 155(a). Accordingly, I look forward to receiving recommendations from Ms. Richards, the General Counsel, and the Managing Director on the specific proposals you raise, and to working with you and your staff on these important issues.

Thank you again for your letter and your willingness to work collaboratively to improve the FCC’s ability to meet its statutory mandate and to serve the American people. I look forward to building on the steps taken during Commissioner Copps’s interim chairmanship and to tackling these issues together.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps