



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 25, 2009

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Joe Baca
U.S. House of Representatives
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Baca:

Thank you for your July 21, 2009 letter regarding the level of minority participation in the development and implementation of the national broadband plan. As you note, certain communities have greater challenges in gaining access to broadband services than other communities. I agree that accessible, affordable broadband is critical to economic growth and educational opportunity, especially for low-income and minority communities. Congress assigned the Commission the important task of developing a national broadband plan to ensure broadband access for *all* Americans, regardless of race, income, or location. Our approach to this plan will be innovative, pragmatic, and data-driven, leaving no idea untested.

The Commission initiated the process of developing this national broadband plan by issuing a *Notice of Inquiry* in April, and we have received thousands of comments in response from a wide and diverse group of citizens, organizations, and industry participants, including numerous minority interest organizations. Included in the Commission's *Notice* and the public record are many of the ideas you recommend, including affordability programs for low-income and minority communities, digital literacy campaigns, multi-layered broadband mapping, and special considerations for minority-owned businesses. During August, the Commission held almost two dozen public workshops on discrete aspects of the plan, and over the next few months we will host a broader national discussion around the country and online. Obtaining input from all stakeholders is extremely valuable, and the process will be one of the most open and participatory processes ever undertaken by the Commission.

I appreciate your views on this matter, and I will make your letter a part of the record in the Commission's open docket regarding development of the national broadband plan. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski
Chairman