

**WORKSHOP ON  
CONSUMERS, TRANSPARENCY AND THE OPEN  
INTERNET**

**Comments of Commissioner Meredith A. Baker  
January 19, 2010**

Good afternoon. First, I want to thank everyone for coming today or participating on line. I also want to thank all those participating in the workshop, including especially FTC Chairman Leibovitz and CRTC Chairman von Finckenstein, who we are honored to have here today. My thanks as well to the members of the Open Internet team who worked so hard to pull this event together.

Careful and thoughtful consideration of how our regulatory decisions will affect consumers is a critical part of our work at the Commission—and in no area is it more important than with respect to the Internet. So, it is great that we are having this workshop today.

Last week, for example, I was lucky enough to participate in the workshop on Innovation and Investment in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There we heard from industry representatives and policy experts about the various forces and considerations that shape the way Internet entrepreneurs and network operators

interact in their use of the Internet today—and the way they would like to do it tomorrow. While there was broad agreement from all parties on the need to keep the Internet open, there was certainly a divergence of views on the best way to do it.

I think transparency about Internet practices and policies will be an important factor in taking that discussion forward and may be a path to more common ground. To me, transparency and the Open Internet go hand-in-hand. The more that is known about the policies and practices of a particular Internet service, the better members of the public at large are served. Whether a casual web user or a hard-core Internaut, a kid with a cool idea for a single app or a software developer who makes her living from launching “crazy”—as a witness last week put it—web-based ideas, everyone can benefit from more, better, clearer information about what happens on a particular Internet connection.

I am particularly pleased that the Commission, under Chairman Genachowski’s leadership, has embraced this philosophy and implemented a thorough and fact-driven process to encourage broad participation in this proceeding and to develop an ample record for a decision, if any, on this matter.

Thanks to everyone and I look forward to your insights on these issues—issues that I consider to be critical for the future of the Internet, the successful deployment of broadband for all Americans, and our nation's economy.