



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology,
and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce
316 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boucher:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the National Broadband Plan to promote universal availability and access to high-quality broadband for all Americans. I value your insights and recommendations.

I am in complete agreement that we must ensure universal availability of broadband access, and that we should put in place a comprehensive blueprint for high levels of broadband service speeds over the next several years. In this respect, the Commission is evaluating public, private, and cooperative efforts of all sorts and is considering short, medium, and long-term actions to improve universal service programs. We are also assessing our experience with the Rural Health Care programs to refine such initiatives to expand affordable broadband connectivity more effectively. Through these programs and other efforts, we hope to close the gaps on universal broadband availability and adoption.

The second goal you recommend is to establish ambitious, but achievable benchmarks for broadband service speeds. I agree that setting such benchmarks is an important component of developing an effective broadband plan. I have recently suggested that our aspirational high speed goal should be affordable broadband access to 100 million homes by 2020, at a minimum speed of 100 Mbps. It is essential that we aspire to meet the broadband infrastructure needs of the future. As you mention, these networks will be the foundation for the nation's long-term economic stability and prosperity.

I appreciate your views and input on this matter, and I will make your letter a part of the record in the Commission's open docket regarding its development of a National Broadband Plan. I look forward to working with you as the Commission undertakes the development of a broadband plan that can serve our nation for years to come. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski