



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1700

October 15, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express both our hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings focused on the deployment and use of broadband networks.

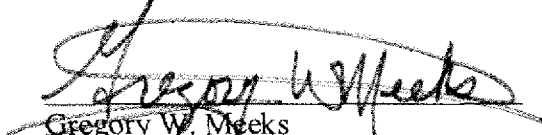
We applaud the Commission's effort to gather information about broadband and its recognition of the significant progress achieved to date, progress that is a direct result of policies that have encouraged competition and private investment and relied on the exercise of regulatory restraint. A decade ago, broadband was a nascent service, and only one percent of U.S. households connected to the Internet through broadband lines; today by contrast, roughly two-thirds of Americans connect through high-speed connections that are available to ninety-five percent of households. While we have further to go as a nation in extending the benefits of broadband to all, it is our strong belief that continued progress in expanding the reach and capabilities of broadband networks will require the Commission to reiterate, and not repudiate, its historic commitment to competition, private investment and a restrained regulatory approach.

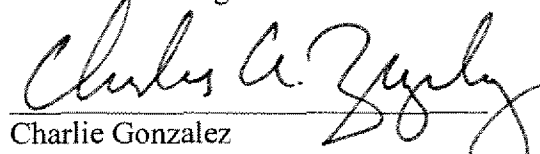
As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts will reveal the critical role that competition and private investment have played -- and of necessity will continue to play -- in building robust broadband networks that are safe, secure and open. In light of the growth and innovation in new applications that the current regime has enabled, as compared to the limited evidence demonstrating any tangible harm, we would urge you to avoid tentative conclusions which favor government regulation.


Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation and growth that we all seek to achieve.


Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.


Sincerely,

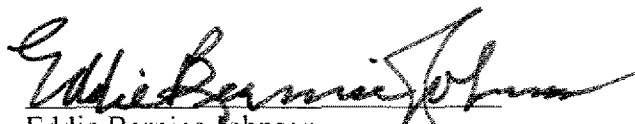

Gregory W. Meeks
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Charlie Gonzalez
Member of Congress

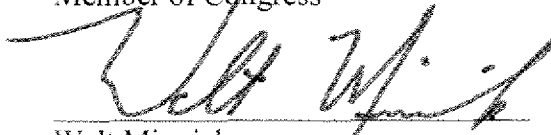

John Tanner
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Michael McMahon
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Ed Towns
Member of Congress

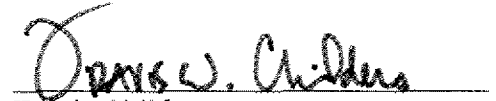

Eddie Bernice Johnson
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John Barrow
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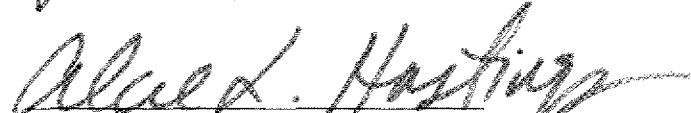

Gene Green
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Travis Childers
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Loretta Sanchez
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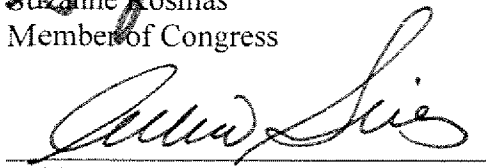

Chaka Fattah
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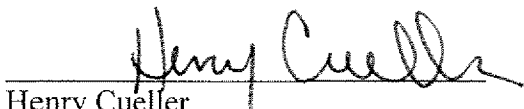

Alcee L. Hastings
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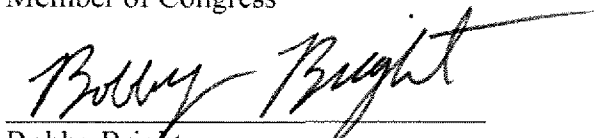

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

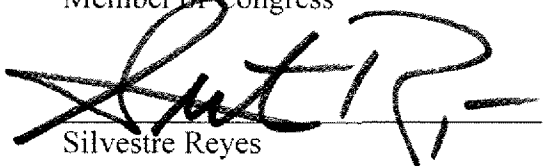

Suzanne Kosmas
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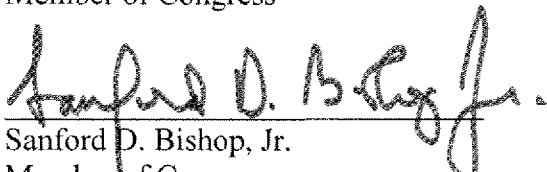

Albio Sires
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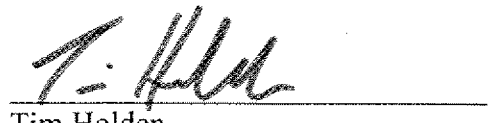

Bobby Bright
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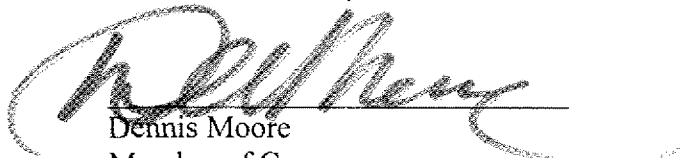

Silvestre Reyes
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

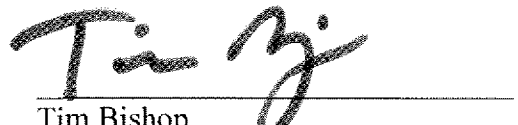

Lincoln Davis
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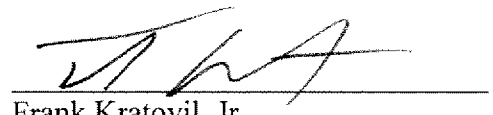

Tim Holden
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Dennis Moore
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Solomon Ortiz
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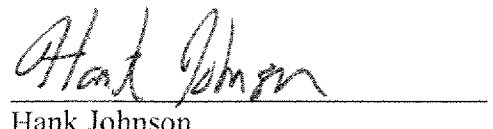

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

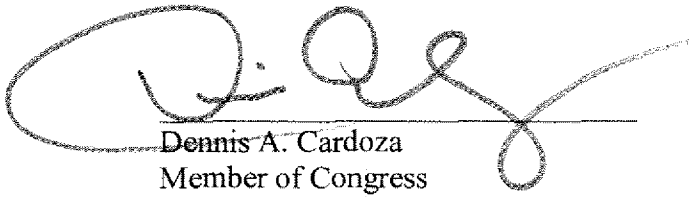

Russ Carnahan
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Frank Kratovil, Jr.
Member of Congress

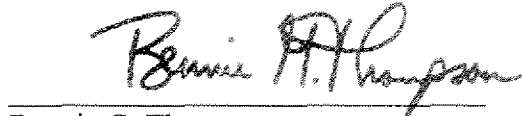

Allyson Schwartz
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Allen Boyd
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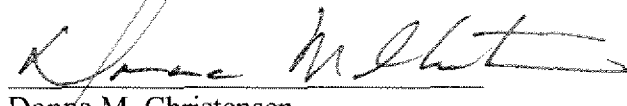

Dennis A. Cardoza
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Bennie G. Thompson
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Baron P. Hill
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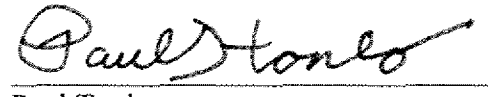

Parker Griffith
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Donna M. Christensen
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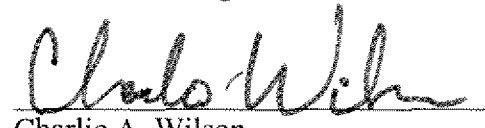

Paul Tonko
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Zachary T. Space
Member of Congress

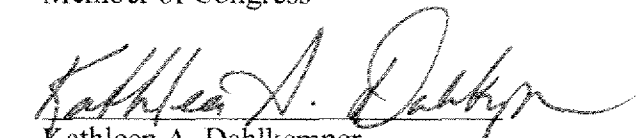

Robert A. Brady
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Debbie L. Halvorson
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Charlie A. Wilson
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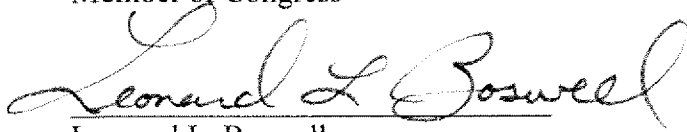

Jared Polis
Member of Congress


Steve Driehaus
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Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
Member of Congress



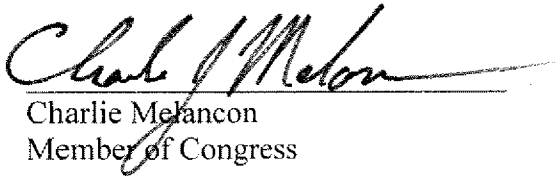
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



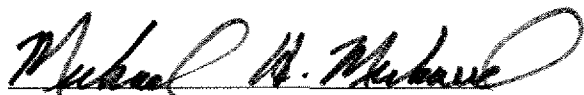
Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
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Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



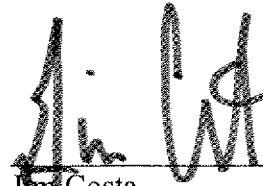
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Glenn Nye
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Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
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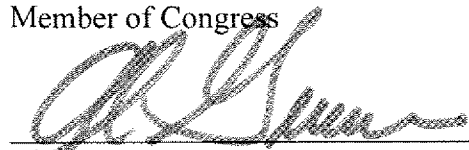
Mike Ross
Member of Congress



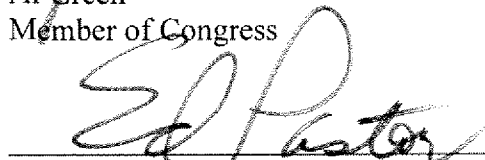
John Spratt, Jr.
Member of Congress



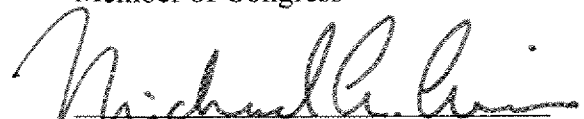
Peter Welch
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Al Green
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Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



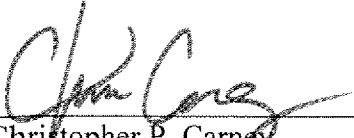
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



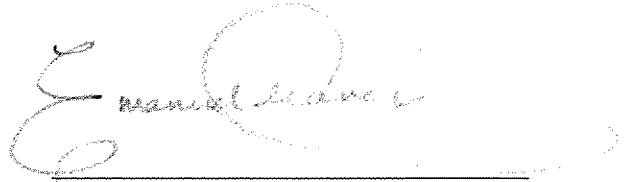
Heath Shuler
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Nick Rahall
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CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
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