

JOSEPH R. PITTS
16TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

CONGRESSIONAL—EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

DISCREET
10087

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3816

GABE NEVILLE—WASHINGTON CHIEF OF STAFF
TOM TILLET—DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF

420 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2411

150 NORTH QUEEN STREET
SUITE 716
LANCASTER, PA 17603
(717) 393-0667

POST OFFICE BOX 837
UNIONVILLE, PA 19375
(610) 429-1540

www.house.gov/pitts

October 13, 2009

The Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I heartily endorse the views expressed by my Energy & Commerce Committee colleagues in their letter to you of October 5, 2009. Your proposal to adopt new “net neutrality” rules poses significant concerns, especially considering the state of our economy.

Like my colleagues, I support an open Internet and want my constituents to enjoy the full panoply of benefits that broadband provides. In my view, faster speeds, lower prices, increased deployment, and rapid adoption are all signs of a healthy broadband marketplace. With the advent of 4G wireless broadband, it is reasonable to expect marketplace competition to increase in the near future. As you have pointed out, in addition to these consumer benefits, broadband has also become important to the delivery of innovative solutions to many important societal problems, including educational, health and environmental issues.

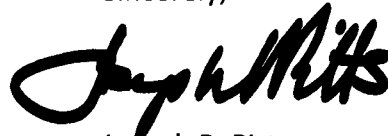
Fundamentally, it is important to acknowledge that broadband is critical to our economy. Fortune 500 companies and home-based businesses alike are relying more and more on broadband for the conduct of business. Broadband is important to economic development – locally, regionally and nationally. Returning to prosperity is our top national priority, and we should focus on initiatives that will help increase employment. Incentivizing broadband development is one such policy.

I receive hundreds of letters a week from constituents who are concerned about the ineffectiveness of Washington’s efforts to stimulate the economy. According to recently released Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, since the start of this recession, the number of unemployed persons has increased from 7.6 million to 15.1 million and the unemployment rate has doubled to 9.8 percent. About 8.5 percent of Pennsylvanians and nearly 10 percent of all American workers number among the unemployed.

OSP
Network
PJ
JC
1/14/09

While "net neutrality" rules would primarily address theoretical future problems, the current recession has created very real problems for millions of Americans. However well-intentioned, new "net neutrality" regulations have the potential to hurt the economy by discouraging investment and job creation. For that reason, I urge you to reconsider this proposed rulemaking. I believe the FCC should focus on encouraging more widespread adoption of broadband and finding ways of extending broadband to those areas that do not have it today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Pitts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being the most prominent part.

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress