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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
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CONGRESSIONAL—EXECUTIVE  
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October 13, 2009

The Hon. Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

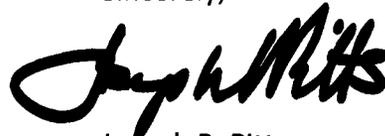
Fundamentally, it is important to acknowledge that broadband is critical to our economy. Fortune 500 companies and home-based businesses alike are relying more and more on broadband for the conduct of business. Broadband is important to economic development – locally, regionally and nationally. Returning 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.

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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, reading "Joseph R. Pitts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress