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EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3211

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CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE

October 20, 2009

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

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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Our nation has embraced cyberspace as the new economic growth engine – it has rapidly replaced the industrial factories and assembly lines that our parents and grandparents built. The digital networks American researchers pioneered only a few decades ago have rapidly become the bedrock of global trade, ubiquitous communication, and economic prosperity. Much of this growth and innovation is directly attributable to our government's commitment to maintain a sensible approach to managing these invisible highways of commerce; encouraging competition and private investment while exercising regulatory restraint.

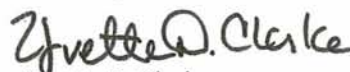
We write to express our concerns related to the growth of cybercrime, international cyber espionage, and the increasingly difficult time our parents have of preventing the exposure of their young children to harmful Internet sites. Our apprehension centers on proposed government regulations that might limit or restrict network service providers' efforts to protect their customers from these growing online threats.

As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on the ability for network providers to be able to reduce or eliminate cybercrime and other cyber threats. The best countermeasure to these growing threats is to permit network providers to manage their networks defensively, to be able to block or control access to hostile sites and content, and to work with their customers to provide a safe environment for children, adults, businesses, and even the government itself. There are concerns that some proposed "net neutrality" provisions could reverse much of the progress that has been made to combat online threats, and will severely impact future innovation and creativity that would lead to increased security in cyberspace.

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 cyberspace in a secure fashion. As you move forward with net neutrality rulemaking, we want to ensure that conclusions are based on substance and policies that would not restrict or inhibit the innovation, growth, and increased security that we all seek to achieve.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke

Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats,
Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology
House Committee on Homeland Security