



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 29, 2011

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry:

I appreciate knowing of your support for the Commission's December 14<sup>th</sup> *Generation Mobile* forum. This program was a wonderful opportunity for teens, parents, educators, regulators and innovators to exchange essential information about addressing the risks that accompany broadband Internet technology. I believe that we came away with a good understanding of the issues and that the dialogue we initiated during this forum will help all generations reap the opportunities of mobile broadband technology while avoiding many of the pitfalls.

The first panel, entitled "Generation Mobile Speaks," provided direct input from teens, parents and educators. Listening to real stories highlighted the mixed blessing of our mobile generation. As we heard, broadband has saved lives and provided us with security and educational opportunities, but we also learned the downside of this sometimes over-connected age. Cyberbullying, distracted driving, sexting, and addiction are very real problems. Parents acknowledged that they, not the government, must do more to help their young ones navigate the dangers.

Panel II, "Ask the Experts," revealed the many tools that are available to parents to help ensure their children's safety while online. One important point that emerged from this panel is that parents and guardians too often are unaware of these resources. We heard the need for greater digital education so parents can better monitor their children's online activity. All panelists agreed that digital literacy is a shared responsibility among parents, schools, and kids. Parents need to be more vigilant and, as you state in your letter, work with their children and involve them in the conversation. Government's role can be to help facilitate the dialogue.

I look forward to working with you during the next year on this and many of the other communications issues before the Commission. Thank you once again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski