



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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.

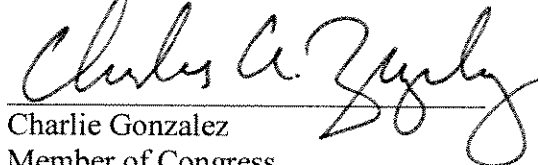
As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts 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.

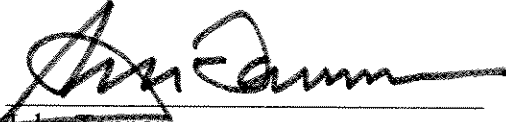
Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation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

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

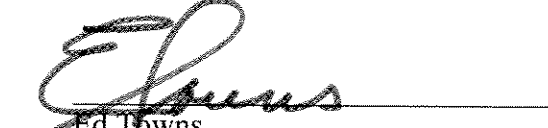
Sincerely,


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Charlie Gonzalez
Member of Congress

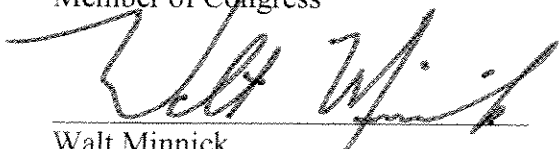

John Tanner
Member of Congress

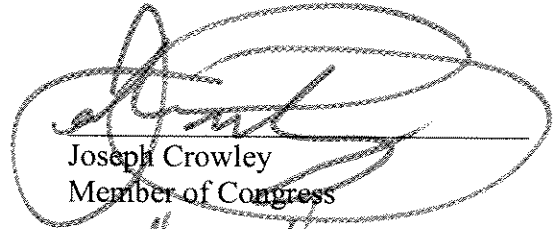

Michael McMahon
Member of Congress

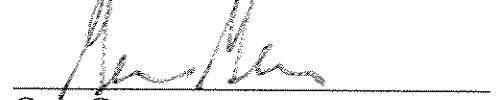

Ed Towns
Member of Congress

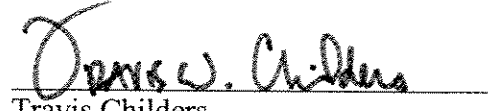

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


John Barrow
Member of Congress



Walt Minnick
Member of Congress

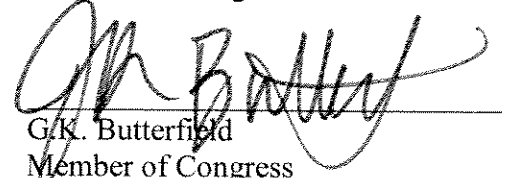

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

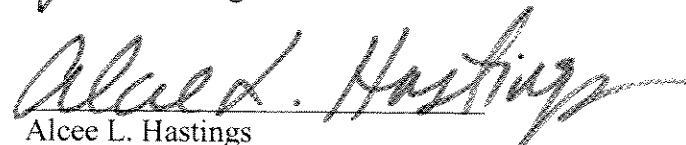

Gene Green
Member of Congress



Travis Childers
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

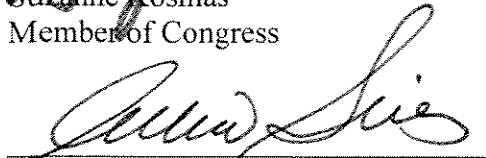

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

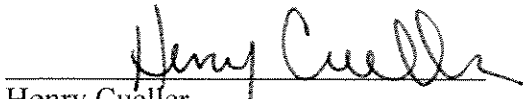

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

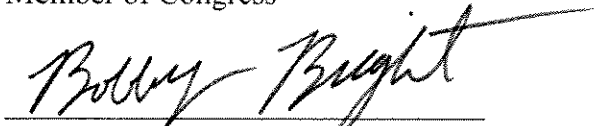

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

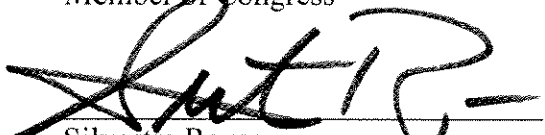

Suzanne Kosmas
Member of Congress

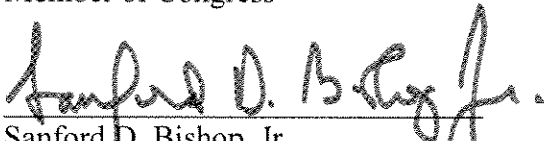

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Henry Cueller
Member of Congress



Bobby Bright
Member of Congress


Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

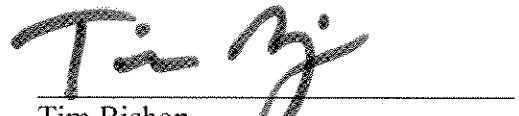

Lincoln Davis
Members of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

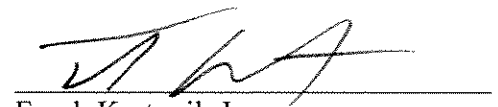

Tim Holden
Member of Congress


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

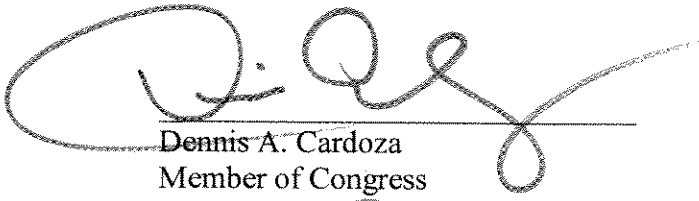

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress


Frank Kratovil, Jr.
Member of Congress


Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Allen Boyd
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



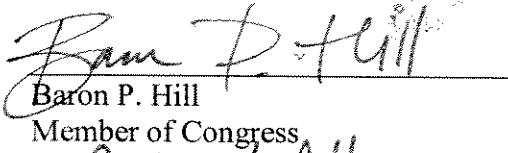
Dennis A. Cardoza
Member of Congress



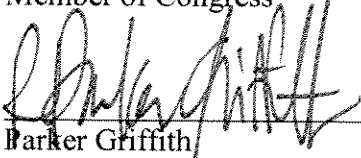
David Scott
Member of Congress



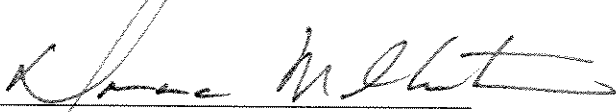
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Baron P. Hill
Member of Congress



Parker Griffith
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress



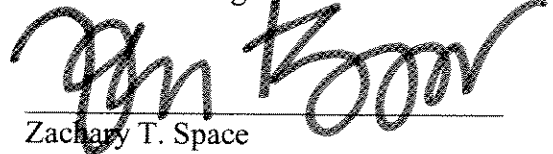
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



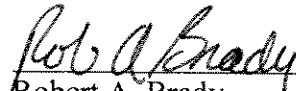
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Zachary T. Space
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Debbie L. Halvorson
Member of Congress



Charlie A. Wilson
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



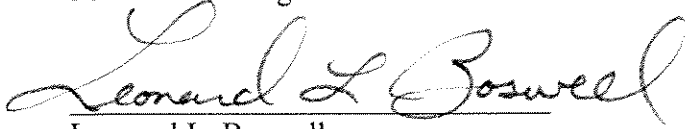
Steve Driehaus
Member of Congress



Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
Member of Congress



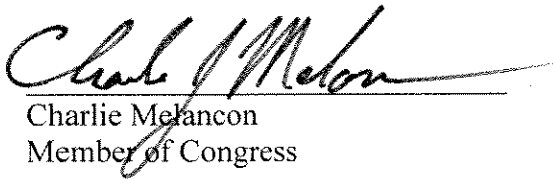
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



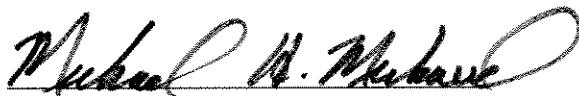
Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



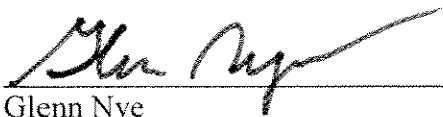
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



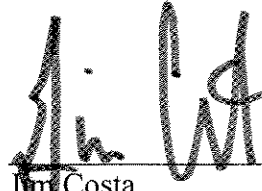
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Glenn Nye
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



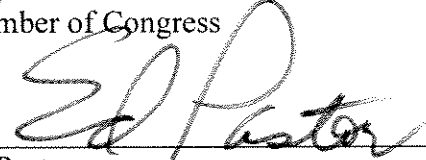
John Spratt, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



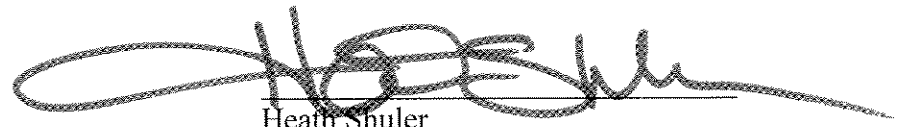
Al Green
Member of Congress



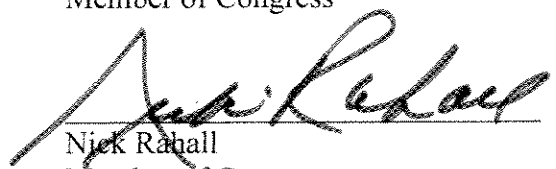
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



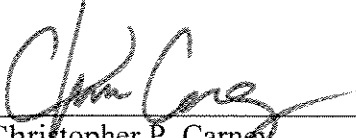
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



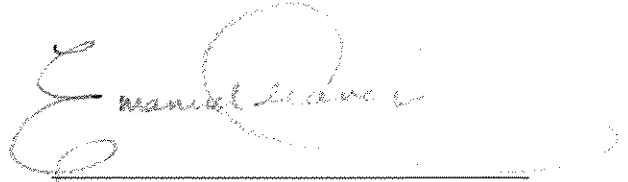
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell