



October 22, 2009

Chair Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chair Genachowski:

On behalf of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), we write to express our support for the Commission's continued efforts to safeguard the free and prosperous market built on the open Internet.

The open Internet has empowered citizens and local communities by increasing civic participation, facilitating learning, and strengthening neighborhood businesses. Via the Internet, city and state governments can stream council meetings, publish text of resolutions and other official documents, and communicate with their constituents online directly. Students can communicate with their teachers and with one another, and can access immense databases of information, from home, school, and even their neighborhood coffee shop. Through the Internet, small businesses and entrepreneurs can advertise and sell online, and compete with much larger businesses on a level playing field by creating a better product – not by paying for preferential treatment online. The open Internet brings to communities both a stronger economy and a stronger democracy.

For years the FCC has intervened when necessary to preserve the economic and social benefits of the open Internet. As threats to these benefits increase, the time has come to move from incremental actions to clear rules, and we encourage you to continue towards that end. The Commission's existing four principles, plus the proposed principles of nondiscrimination and transparency, should be enacted into rules to establish a clear framework for the open Internet. Such a framework, if developed correctly, will safeguard the benefits of the Internet for local communities, and will foster new opportunities for economic growth and civic engagement.

Attached please find NATOA's formal policy statement on Network Neutrality, adopted in March 2007. We look forward to working with you in developing the proper framework for the open Internet, to preserve its democratic, social, and economic benefits for this and the next generation of citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Fellman".

Ken Fellman
NATOA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya S. Rideout".

Tonya S. Rideout
NATOA Acting Executive Director

National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

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Board of Directors Policy Statement
On "Network Neutrality"
Adopted March 7, 2007

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), an organization dedicated to promoting community interests in communications, has reinforced its long standing policy statement regarding the non-discriminatory access by all users to all forms of communications services. NATOA's Board supports the efforts of lawmakers to enact specific legislation that would prevent communications providers from discriminating or prioritizing the transmissions of any communications services or products based on the content or source of such services and products. NATOA's current policy states:

NATOA Supports:

- **... the effective and efficient use of all communications technologies including voice, video, data, and information services over wired and wireless transmission technologies.**

Local governments support implementation of Federal, State and Local laws and rules that encourage open and interconnected services and technologies that are universally available to all citizens.

In recent years communications providers have suggested that they expect to favor some content and services over others, for commercial, political, or other purposes. NATOA's Board does not believe that a communications provider should be allowed to favor one content provider, service or product over another. All persons purchasing specific communications services or products from a communications provider should receive access without any form of discrimination by the communications provider. This principle of non-discriminatory treatment is called "Net Neutrality."

Communications providers are already compensated for the use of their networks through subscriptions by consumers to their products and services. Communications providers should not be allowed to favor one consumer over another simply by virtue of the consumer's choice of product, service, or website.