



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

October 15, 2009

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I strongly applaud your commitment to find ways to get broadband extended to all corners of our nation and to getting more Americans connected to broadband. Pennsylvania has been working toward that goal and to further help meet those challenges, we hope to attract grants from the Commerce and Agriculture Departments to bring broadband to remote areas of Pennsylvania where the telephone, cable and cellular companies cannot sensibly afford to extend their networks.

While the important efforts by your agency and the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture to promote broadband deployment and broadband adoption get relatively little attention, another initiative that you have announced – a proceeding to adopt “open Internet” rules – is getting much more attention. I strongly support an open Internet, and I think it makes sense for your agency to decide whether there are risks to an open Internet that require federal regulation.

But as the leader of a state that needs to promote hundreds of millions of dollars of ongoing investment by private companies to bring our citizens the fastest, most advanced broadband networks, I want to urge you to move with the utmost care.

We need network providers to keep improving networks and competing with each other. Any regulations that might have unintended consequences – that might seriously curtail innovation and investment by network providers [or that may force network providers to raise prices] need to be avoided.

Broadband brings economic opportunity for our citizens, and new opportunities to improve healthcare, education, and energy management. Building those networks, and making them better, delivers thousands of good jobs in construction, engineering and sales.

I respectfully urge you to take these concerns into account as you formulate the open Internet rules on which you will be seeking public input. And I wish you success in what will be a very exciting and challenging position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell".

Edward G. Rendell
Governor