

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTONOFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 23, 2009

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu:

Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the broadband initiatives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). I agree that it is crucial to ensure affordable, high-speed broadband for all Americans, and especially to work to bring its benefits to those Americans who remain out of reach of these services – including the potential benefits to small businesses – and I was also pleased to offer in my May 22, 2009 Report to Congress on a rural broadband strategy, a series of recommendations on how the government can better promote broadband in rural areas, consistent with a national broadband plan.

While the Commission is not directly responsible for the distribution of funds under the Recovery Act, Congress assigned the Commission a consultative role. The Recovery Act also charged the Commission with the important task of developing a national broadband plan. The goal of the national plan will be to ensure broadband access for *all* Americans, regardless of their location. The Commission initiated the process of developing this national broadband plan by issuing a *Notice of Inquiry* in April. The *Notice* asked in particular how broadband can be used to advance entrepreneurial activity, and sought comment on the role of small businesses in the national broadband plan. We have received hundreds of comments in response to the *Notice* from a wide and diverse group of citizens, organizations, and companies.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn your views on this important matter. I also want to thank you for your offer to work with the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship as we develop the national broadband plan. We will make your letter a part of the record in our docket on the Commission's consultative role in the broadband provisions of the Recovery Act. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Copps".

Michael J. Copps
Acting Chairman