

Advocacy Submits Comment on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Commission's Rural Broadband Strategy

On March 25, 2009, Advocacy filed a letter with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") in response to the Commission's request for comment on the creation of a rural broadband strategy as required by the Farm Bill of 2008.¹

- Advocacy urged the Commission to harmonize the rural plan with the FCC's national broadband strategy to the greatest extent possible. A rural plan should flow from a comprehensive national strategy that establishes uniform definitions, procedures and requirements across all interagency efforts.
- Advocacy also recommended that the Commission foster competition in the market for advanced telecommunications services in rural areas. Access to competitive offerings will enable the market to generate affordable pricing for small business customers of broadband Internet service. Giving rural communities a variety of broadband service options is an important step towards ensuring that both residential and small business customer needs are adequately fulfilled.

Information on the proposed rule can be found on the FCC website at: www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/.

A complete copy of Advocacy's letter may be accessed at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

For more information on this and other small business issues, visit Advocacy's website at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/> or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Cheryl Johns by e-mail at: cheryl.johns@sba.gov, or by phone at: (202) 205-6949.

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¹ Pub. L. 110-226, 122 Stat. 1651 (June 18, 2008).