



Japanese American Citizens League

Masao Satow Building • 1765 Sutter Street • San Francisco, CA • 94115
Ph: (415) 921-5225 • Fax: (415) 931-4671 • E-mail: jacl@jacl.org

June 2, 2009

Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community.

We have come to recognize the benefits of next-generation technologies for our membership, as well as all Americans. Broadband technology enables new applications in healthcare, education, and civic engagement. These opportunities give Americans the ability to connect to their communities and become more involved. A Pew Internet and American Life Project report highlights the importance of the Internet in providing information during the 2008 presidential campaign. The study revealed that 74% of Internet users went online during the 2008 election to take part in, or get news about the 2008 campaign.

With these important benefits in mind, JACL hopes that the FCC will incorporate policies that allow for the continued deployment of affordable broadband in its national broadband strategy. We commend Congress and the Administration for taking important steps towards universal broadband service by including this provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Keeping broadband affordable and increasing deployment are critical to making the goal of universal broadband service a reality. Barriers must remain low for adoption so more Americans are able to harness the benefits of the Internet. Morgan Stanley measures national residential broadband penetration to currently be at 56% and projects an increase to 61.1% by 2011. We encourage the FCC to take action so that the goal of 100% broadband can be achieved. It is our view at the JACL that the FCC should foster an environment where private sector investment can continue to spur this growth.

Broadband technology has become essential to increasing economic opportunities, civic involvement, job growth, and education. JACL urges the FCC to promote policies that keep broadband affordable and accessible for all Americans.

Sincerely,

S. Floyd Mori
JACL National Executive Director