United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2010

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are pleased that the Commission is releasing a Notice of Inquiry today to solicit public comment on the "Third Way" legal approach to broadband oversight that you announced last month. We write to urge the Commission to pursue a strong legal framework that protects the free and open Internet, promotes innovation and investment, and protects consumers online.

In the wake of the *Comcast Corp. v. FCC* decision, you announced a legal approach to provide a regulatory framework for the transmission component of broadband Internet access. Some have wrongly characterized this as "regulating the Internet." It simply provides rules of the road for the onramp to the Internet, to ensure that consumers can continue to access the legal content, applications and services of their choosing.

We support the process you are beginning today because we recognize that it is about more than the important goal of a free and open Internet. It is about whether we strengthen the communications systems on which our first responders rely, whether Native American and rural communities can share in the benefits of broadband, and whether consumers will have a cop on the broadband beat.

Deploying broadband infrastructure to every corner of our country is a formidable challenge that requires a concerted federal strategy. It will have profound implications for the social and economic future of the nation. In the face of this challenge, inaction at the FCC is simply not an option.

That is why we support the process you have begun. We urge you to conduct an open and transparent discussion of the issues at hand. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein

Al Franken

Bernie Sanders

Tom Harkin