March 30, 2010

Roshnika Fernando

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Apt 2S

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Mrs. Seema Dahlheimer

Lecturer

Washington University in St. Louis

Dear Mrs. Dahlheimer,

Broadband, according to The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website, is high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access. In an effort to keep Americans better informed and economically competitive, the FCC recently released the National Broadband Plan. This plan calls for 100 million U.S. homes to have access to affordable download speeds of 100mbps and upload speeds of 50mbps. It also calls for every American community to have access to at least 1gbps broadband service to anchor schools, hospitals, and government buildings.

Affordable broadband access is easy to find in and around cities, but rural communities are left in the dust. Considering America’s vast size, building broadband connections to rural areas comes with a cumbersome price tag. Although private broadband companies, e.g. Comcast and Charter, are always looking to expand, they do not build in locations that seem unprofitable. Constructing wired broadband lines to remote locations cost more money than a company is likely to earn back in subscribers. This is when the FCC steps in and offers incentives to private companies or constructs wired broadband connections independently.

In response to the dilemma of constructing broadband lines in rural communities, I propose to do a study on wired broadband, concluding with a recommendation report. First, I must analyze available wired broadband technology: digital subscriber lines (DSL), cable, leased lines (T1), broadband over powerline (BPL), and fiber optic cable. By comparing long term effectiveness, connection reliability, costs, and feasibility, I plan on offering a recommendation report for the FCC and private broadband companies interested in expanding to rural areas. Completion of this research will take approximately one month, starting immediately.

By offering a recommendation report, I hope to assist in bringing broadband services to disadvantaged rural communities as swiftly as possible. It is in the best interest of America to remain educated and economically competitive as other developed nations are also racing to expand their broadband services.

Sincerely,

Roshnika Fernando