



308 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.394.7726
609.394.2795 Fax
info@njseed.org
www.njseed.org

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

April 7, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

On behalf of NJ SEED President Jim Benton, Vice Presidents Art Guida and Charlie Wowkanech, and the rest of the Officers and Trustees of the New Jersey Society for Environmental, Economic Development (NJ SEED), I would like to express our strong support for the deployment provisions in the recently announced National Broadband Plan.

Earlier this year, while the U.S. unemployment rate stayed below 10 percent, New Jersey's unemployment rate hit 10.3 percent. Among our youth and the poor, the rate is significantly higher. Meanwhile, cities and counties throughout our state continue to stagger under the weight of business closings, increased demand for services and less tax revenue.

In today's difficult and highly competitive business climate, broadband deployment is a necessity for the successful entrepreneur. The NBP's focus on deployment and its recognition of the high cost to realize President Obama's dream of universal broadband service are also important.

NJ SEED speaks with authority on economic development matters. Our organization was born during the recession of the early 1970s when our state's business community and labor leaders came together to create a positive force to support private sector job growth. For more than 30 years, NJ SEED has been a leading voice for economic development balanced with environmental sensitivity.

From our perspective, the crucial issue before the Commission is how best to spur high-speed deployment, especially to poor and underserved areas. This is the single biggest pro-jobs, pro-growth economic policy that the FCC could

endorse. By promoting broadband deployment and especially by eliminating regulations that interfere with this deployment, the Commission will signal a strong commitment to helping New Jersey return to economic growth.

Moreover, as an organization committed to environmental protection, we urge you to consider "green" benefits to rapid broadband deployment such as expanded tele-work opportunities that can take cars off the roads and reduce automobile greenhouse emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to have NJ SEED's voice heard in this critical debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Drulis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Michael Drulis
Executive Director

Enclosure: NJ SEED Trustees and Leadership