

August 5, 2016

Hon. Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for the extension of the Cable Procurement Rule to all communications technologies.

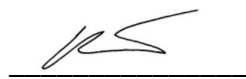
Under the Rule, which dates to the 1992 Cable Act, cable and satellite operators annually inform the Commission on the steps they take to provide equal procurement opportunities to minority and women suppliers. In this way, operators consciously ensure that when they lay fiber, float a bond, establish a call center or arrange for fleet maintenance, diverse suppliers will be made aware of the opportunity and have an opportunity to bid.

Recognizing that communications technologies' business environments are converging into a unified ecosystem, you have promoted the principle of platform neutrality. Following your lead, fifty-seven national organizations support extension of the Cable Procurement Rule across all technologies. The affected industries – including the Title I information services that the proposal would reach through a request for voluntary reporting or a referral to GAO for data gathering – have exhibited statesmanship by lodging no oppositions to this proposal.

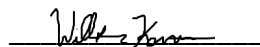
During our chairmanships, we each worked to facilitate the meaningful entry of minority and women owned companies into the industry in ownership roles. This proposal would help dramatically by opening up opportunities for business relationships that are generally a predicate to ownership.

On the national stage, the extension of equal procurement opportunity to industries constituting one-sixth of the economy would be an enormous civil rights achievement during your Chairmanship.

Sincerely,



Reed Hundt
Chairman
November 1993-
November 1997



William E. Kennard
Chairman
November 1997 -
January 2001



Michael J. Copps
Acting Chairman
January 2009 -
June 2009



Julius Genachowski
Chairman
June 2009 -
May 2013