



February 28, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room #8B-201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Free Nationwide Wireless Broadband Access (WT Docket 07-16 and WT Docket 07-30)

Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you on behalf of EDUCAUSE, a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. Our current membership comprises more than 2,000 colleges, universities, and educational organizations, including 200 corporations, with over 16,500 active members. It is EDUCAUSE's belief that affordable access to high-speed Internet connectivity, regardless of the technology being deployed, is essential for higher education to provide faculty, researchers, and students with the capacity to access information and collaborate via distance/distributed learning. We believe that a free nationwide wireless broadband Internet service would be beneficial to our nation's students, as well as all Americans.

A primary goal of EDUCAUSE is to ensure that, regardless of location, those who want to learn have affordable, convenient access to quality education. EDUCAUSE envisions a future in which education is active and learner centered, and occurs in both formal and informal environments. To achieve these goals, higher education institutions must utilize information technology to its fullest potential. In particular, the widespread availability of affordable broadband communications would make both campus-based and distance learning more accessible and effective.

EDUCAUSE believes that the appropriate role for technology is to serve as a tool to enhance teaching and learning. Ubiquitous broadband Internet access would empower teachers and promote student success by taking the educational experience beyond the walls of the classroom. It is critical that higher education keeps pace with advancing technology in a rapidly changing, competitive world.

Affordable broadband access for everyone will be an essential driver of America's educational, economic and social development. As more students gain access to always-



on, available-anywhere broadband, their learning opportunities will increase exponentially. But when such access is delayed, the American education community is disadvantaged in the global information arena.

EDUCAUSE believes it is in the public interest for the Commission to use all of the means available to it, as authorized by Congress, to make universal and affordable broadband a reality. I encourage the Commission to give serious consideration to all license applications before it that offer innovative means of making wireless broadband more available and more affordable to all parts of our country and our economy. By opening the door to broadband Internet access to all Americans, the FCC will help today's students – the workforce of the future – meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian L. Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian L. Hawkins
President
EDUCAUSE

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission