



February 28, 2007

Chair Deborah Platt Majoras
Federal Trade Commission
Room H-135 (Annex B)
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Re: Broadband Connectivity Competition Policy Workshop- Comment, Project No. V07000

Dear Chair Marjoras,

We are submitting our comments in response to the Federal Trade Commission's request for written comments for the Broadband Connectivity Workshop hosted by the agency on February 13-14, 2007. Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) is a bi-partisan public policy organization representing well over a half million women and minorities in business nationwide including 47 associations that partner with us.

As representatives of small business owners, we believe that market demand, innovation in technology, and competition between providers should drive changes in the telecommunication sector, as opposed to government regulation. We understand how important access to the latest technological innovation is for the success of a small business. In fact, WIPP members report that access to technology is increasingly important to the growth of their business. In a 2005 survey, 63% of our members support lessening telecommunications regulation if it will increase the availability of new technology and widen consumer choice. In the same survey, 41% of our members believe that the best way to ensure that customers get the best products at the lowest prices is when government reduces regulations so companies can compete for customers in a free market.

Today, because of open, market-based competition policies for the Internet, small businesses can choose from numerous telecommunications products, services and applications that allow them to grow their business in the marketplace. Furthermore, access to broadband internet services enables small businesses to compete with larger companies, seek opportunities globally and become efficient in strategic partners' supply chains. WIPP believes that these choices for broadband services and the benefits to business that results from them are due in large part to competitive market forces.

WIPP believes that the advent of open, market-based competition among a variety of different technology mediums, has promoted the rapid deployment and adoption of

broadband telecommunications services, applications, products and content. Consumers, small business owners and large enterprises have access to more applications, products and services than ever, in large part due to the open nature of the Internet. We believe that continued advancement of technology and inherently the spirit of innovation should continue to be the responsibility of free-market forces. Policies which support free-market principles are in the best interest of preserving the benefits afforded by telecommunications and technology advancements. We feel imposing "net neutrality" regulations upon broadband network providers could ultimately jeopardize the momentum to innovate and construct newer networks - an important issue to women business owners.

WIPP does not believe a good case has been made to impose further regulations on Internet and broadband services. In fact, net neutrality is a solution in search of a problem, whereby there is no evidence of any problems which exist today associated with consumers' broadband experience. Technology and innovation are thriving in the open market and net neutrality regulations could have devastating effects on future investment and innovation. We urge the FTC to keep in mind the effects that regulations on the telecommunications industry can have on the small business community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact WIPP's federal legislative consultant, Ann Sullivan, at (202) 626-8528.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kasoff
President