



National Hispanic Media Coalition
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October 21, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
The Honorable Joe Barton
House Energy and Commerce Committee

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC), I would like to express support for Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations to ensure that our Internet remains open and neutral.

The NHMC is a non-profit, media advocacy organization established in 1986 in Los Angeles, California. Our mission is to improve the image of American Latinos as portrayed by the media, increase the number of American Latinos employed in all facets of the media industry, and advocate for media and telecommunications policies that benefit the Latino community and other historically disenfranchised communities of color.

NHMC was pleased to learn that the FCC intends to propose rules to promote Internet openness and neutrality, and we believe that such rules must be vetted through the FCC's ordinary notice and comment procedures. We must begin a formal discussion to ensure that all interested parties can take part in the exchange of ideas and information. The notice and comment period is the appropriate time to scrutinize the nuanced details of any proposed rules, and this important debate must not be shut down before ever reaching that process. Stalling this proceeding could significantly frustrate the efforts of those who rely on an open Internet to provide and acquire diverse information.

NHMC supports President Obama's promise to "set up common-sense ground rules to ensure that there's a level playing field for all comers who seek to contribute their innovations." It is imperative that the FCC develop rules to promote Internet connections that are open and neutral, and discourage Internet service providers from discriminating against or interfering with online content.

For decades the NHMC has fought the under and misrepresentation of Latinos, and has advocated for diverse voices in broadcast and other traditional media. Although we have made great progress, many people of color do not have access to traditional outlets to share their work. For some, the Internet has provided an alternative conduit. Thus, regulations are necessary to ensure that as more and more people of color access the Internet, we have a neutral forum to share our

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stories and be competitive in educational and occupational opportunities. Rules that reinforce Internet openness and nondiscrimination will protect minority small business owners that conduct online operations and independent content producers that create three dimensional stories to depict people of color more accurately.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Nogales', written in a cursive style.

Alex Nogales
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition