



**POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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August 4, 2010

Senator Sam Brownback  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brownback:

I am writing on behalf of the Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation. Our corporation provides economic development services county-wide, including to several very small rural communities in our 861 square mile county.

We are extremely concerned with the FCC's National Broadband Plan as presently proposed. The plan will have serious negative consequences for consumers living in rural America by creating a digital divide by calling for broadband speeds of 100 mbps to 100 million homes in urban areas while only supporting 4 mbps in rural areas through the Connect America Fund. In addition, the current plan redirects the focus and uses of the Universal Service Fund, in a manner that will undercut the financial viability of many rural telecommunications providers, while driving customer costs to unsupportable levels.

These provisions are unacceptable, and we urge you to contact the FCC to tell them so. Quality broadband service is fundamental to sustaining and bringing high-paying jobs to our rural communities, and the FCC plan should not diminish the quality of rural telecommunications service, undercut the investment and commitment our local telecommunications companies continue to make in order to deploy broadband service, or drive costs to consumers to unaffordable levels.

Our county is blessed to have affordable high-speed broadband internet service available to about 40% of our county courtesy of substantial and continuing investments by Wamego Telecommunications, Inc., Twin Valley Telephone Company, and the Blue Valley Telecommunications Cooperative. Each of these is a community-based communications provider that provides high-quality, affordable service to your constituents. Each of these companies will be at financial risk if the FCC Plan as proposed is enacted.

Rural businesses, schools, emergency and other health providers require access to affordable, quality broadband service in order to serve their customers, students and/or constituents.

Quality, affordable broadband service is absolutely necessary in order for rural businesses to remain competitive with businesses in more urban areas and internationally. It is also necessary in order for us expand rural businesses to reach new markets and customers. Without the deployment and affordable maintenance of broadband service with robust speeds, our rural communities will have no chance to further their goals for economic development, education, health care, and quality of life.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rosell  
President