



PRESS RELEASE
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NHMC Pleased With FCC Progress on Preserving Open Internet

NHMC Urges Strong Rules for Mobile Broadband

Washington, D.C. - Yesterday, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced that he has circulated a draft order to create "rules of the road to preserve the freedom and openness of the Internet." NHMC commends the Chairman for this important step towards promoting digital civil rights.

"Network neutrality rules are necessary to ensure that all people - especially people of color, who have been traditionally under and misrepresented on mainstream media - enjoy opportunities to share their stories fairly and accurately," said NHMC's Vice President of Policy and Legal Affairs, Jessica Gonzalez. The Internet is one of the very few places where Latinos can respond to the vitriolic anti-Latino rhetoric that airs unopposed on some mainstream media outlets. Unlike traditional media, the Internet is a forum where individuals can disseminate content and participate in civic discourse with relatively low barriers to entry. In addition, open and neutral broadband access is necessary to survive in today's society, as occupational and educational opportunities migrate online.

As Alex Nogales, NHMC's President and CEO, explains, "If broadband internet service providers are permitted to block or degrade access to certain content, applications and services, the immense opportunities that broadband access provides will be lost. NHMC looks forward to working with the FCC over the next few weeks to ensure that it adopts rules that are sensitive to the barriers to broadband adoption faced by Latinos and other people of color."

In particular, NHMC will work to ensure that open Internet protections extend equally to wireline and wireless broadband connections. "We know that Latinos are more likely to rely on mobile devices as their sole Internet entry point than any other group," added Gonzalez. "Given this reality, the FCC must apply net neutrality rules equally to wireless and wireline connections, or risk adversely impacting the Latino community."

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The National Hispanic Media Coalition 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.