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Contact: Kamilla Kovacs
Office: 202-454-5685
Mobile: 571-426-0466
kkovacs@mediaaccess.org

**MEDIA ACCESS PROJECT AND RURAL/URBAN GROUPS ASK FCC TO
REFORM UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM**

Emphasize Funding for Broadband Development

On behalf of a coalition of rural and urban community organizations, Media Access Project (MAP) submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission on Monday, asking the Commission to use Universal Service Fund monies to support the construction and adoption of broadband. MAP also requested that the Commission take note of the recommendations provided by public interest and community groups, rather than solely those of service providers.

"The public, not telecommunications carriers, should be seen as the true beneficiaries of Universal Service funding," said Matt Wood, Associate Director of Media Access Project and lead attorney for the coalition. "USF was created to improve communications services for end-users in unserved and high-cost regions of the country. The Commission must ensure that the program lives up to its purpose by ensuring its efficiency and by reforming it to support broadband development."

Organizations joining in the filing included Access Humboldt, Appalshop, California Center for Rural Policy, Center for Rural Strategies, Main Street Project, Mountain Area Information Network, New Mexico Media Literacy Project, Rural Broadband Policy Group, Center for Media Justice, Media Action Grassroots Network, Thousand Kites, and Texas Media Empowerment Project.

Media Access Project is a non-profit, public interest law firm dedicated to promoting the public's First Amendment right to access a diverse marketplace of ideas in mass media. For over 37 years, MAP has promoted the public interest before the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Courts, advocating for an open and diverse telecommunications system that protects the free flow of information, promotes universal and equitable access to communications and technology services, and encourages vibrant public discourse on critical issues facing our society.

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