

**Remarks of
FCC Chairman Kevin Martin
Broadband Summit: Connecting America
FCC-NARUC Joint Conference on Advanced Services
San Jose, California
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I am particularly pleased to be speaking with you all today as we reinvigorate this joint conference.

The questions and regulatory choices we face in the broadband space will continue to have a profound impact on our society, and we share a tremendous responsibility at the federal and state level to do all in our power to promote broadband deployment. We each have our roles to play, and must work in concert towards the common goal of providing the benefits of advanced communications to all Americans, no matter their zip code or income level.

Broadband technology is a key driver of economic growth. The ability to share increasing amounts of information at greater and greater speeds increases productivity, facilitates interstate commerce, and helps drive innovation. But perhaps most important, broadband has the potential to affect almost every aspect of our lives – from where we work, to how we educate our children and increasingly to the way healthcare is delivered.

The Commission has taken a number of steps to remove regulatory obstacles that discouraged infrastructure investment and slowed deployment. For example, the Commission has avoided burdensome legacy regulations on DSL, Broadband over Power Lines and Wireless Broadband Internet Access by classifying them as information services. We have streamlined the franchise process for new entrants, and banned exclusive contracts in multiple dwelling units to spur competition in the video market, which is essential for investment in the underlying broadband infrastructure. We also completed the largest auction in FCC history earlier this year, providing spectrum to the marketplace that is ideally suited for broadband, facilitating the “third pipe” to the home. We continue to take steps to further target our efforts. The Commission’s activities, however, are only one piece of the puzzle. State and local regulatory requirements can have a profound impact on the speed of broadband deployment, as well as the cost of such services to consumers.

It is for that reason that forums like these are so important – so we can all row in the same direction for the good of the consumer. I appreciate the participation of all involved today, as we tackle these issues together.