

Access Humboldt

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For Immediate Release
April 13, 2009

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Rural Broadband Policy Group Comments on Broadband Stimulus Rules Access Humboldt joins call for Rural Broadband Principles

Eureka, CA - Access Humboldt joined with the Center for Rural Strategies and other members of the Rural Broadband Policy Group in filing comments today with the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) and the USDA's Rural Utility Service (RUS).

The Rural Broadband Policy Group, which also includes the California Center for Rural Policy based at Humboldt State University, proposed basic principles for rural broadband initiatives, including: Communication is a fundamental human right; diversity of rural America; local ownership, self reliance and investment in the community; and, network neutrality and open access.

Comments filed with the NTIA today addressed seven key elements of the federal broadband initiatives: 1. Compensate for lack of private investment; 2. Unserved communities should be given funding priority; 3. Unserved and Underserved definitions; 4. Invest in local projects; 5. Speed; 6. Mapping; 7. Adoption.

Sean McLaughlin, executive director of Access Humboldt said, "residents of rural communities such as the Redwood Coast of California value basic human rights, including freedom of information and expression, 'by any media and regardless of frontiers.' So, we fully endorse these principles to advance broadband media access."

Specific needs identified for rural broadband include: locally-owned infrastructure; assistance in technology adoption; accurate data on service availability and adoption, and; uniform and transparent federal policies.

Access Humboldt is a non-profit community service organization created in 2006 to manage cable franchise benefits for the County of Humboldt and the Cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale and Blue Lake. Projects under development include Digital Redwoods, Access Humboldt Libraries and Digital Eureka. Broadband media access resources include cable TV channels, local fiber and wireless network connections, and a developing community media center at Eureka High School.

Info: <http://accesshumboldt.net>

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"Local Voices Through Community Media
Engage – Connect – Educate"

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