



Comments of Alan G. Macdonald, Executive Director

**Federal Communications Commission
Public “En Banc” Hearing in Cambridge, Massachusetts
on Broadband Network Management Practices
RE: 07-52 and 08-7**

February 25, 2008

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable’s (MBR) mission is to apply the knowledge, experience and insight of our members to assist the state’s elected leaders in developing long-term policies that promote the social and economic vitality of our state. We believe that the way to increase and sustain revenues over the long term is to promote policies that encourage job growth and build the physical and talent infrastructure to support it.

An integral component of our state’s long term physical infrastructure is broadband and investments in the state’s telecommunications infrastructure. The telecommunications industry invested nearly \$2 billion in new technology in 2006, while generating nearly \$500 million in state and local revenue. Investments in communication infrastructure, particularly in the area of broadband, are just the type of investments that will drive the future innovation economy in Massachusetts and should be encouraged through public policy.

To illustrate this point, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick earlier this month publicly pushed for a \$25 million broadband initiative he has filed with the Legislature. In doing so, the Governor said that “broadband is a necessary service for civic engagement, public education and economic growth, particularly for the health care, biotechnology and clean energy industries driving growth in the state.”

MBR is concerned that both the Free Press Petition and Vuze Petition would impose new and additional regulations that would jeopardize investment and discourage growth in industries critical to our future. In a report entitled “Tapping American’s Potential,” the national Business Roundtable warns that “If we take our scientific and technological supremacy for granted, we risk losing it.” We should do all we can to encourage innovation and global competitiveness. The aforementioned petitions appear to do just the opposite.

Investments by the telecommunication industry in the state’s infrastructure have been extraordinary. Massachusetts is a high-tech state, at the forefront of innovation, due in large part to these investments. To continue to encourage this investment, and position our state and region for long term, sustained economic

growth, we respectfully convey our opposition to both the Free Press Petition and the Vuze Petition.