



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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PRESIDENT

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March 11, 2013

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Bradford:

As President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), I want to personally commend you on your leadership in convening this most important hearing on bringing broadband connectivity to publicly-subsidized housing. Since the inception of the CETF and the adoption of the CETF Strategic Action Plan, the Smart Housing Strategy has been a key component of an integrated plan to close the Digital Divide in California. The residents in affordable public housing are a priority segment of the target population to get connected to help them improve their opportunities and become more self-sufficient. Your commitment to tackling this critical challenge is providing the essential public policy focus to getting the job done and I invite you to report the results of your hearing and resulting recommendations to the California Broadband Council.

When the CPUC ordered the establishment of CETF it was a visionary step to provide a statewide resource to function as a non-profit partner to the State of California to close the Digital Divide. The track record of CETF speaks for itself in being cost-effective and delivering results. Thus, CETF welcomes the opportunity to work with you to advance a Smart Housing Initiative and collaborate with public housing agencies and affordable housing organizations to deploy broadband connectivity for all publicly-subsidized housing in California and Digital Literacy training for all residents to adopt broadband. While we will need to continue to invite public discussion about the best way to achieve these goals and fund a Smart Housing Initiative, your hearing today provides the open forum to begin the conversation among all stakeholders to provide input and seek to reach consensus on the best approach. At the CPUC we welcome the opportunity to work with you and I will engage my colleagues in this important policy discussion.

The Smart Housing Strategy is a personal passion of mine which I have articulated to federal policymakers. Thus, I also stand ready to join a united California voice in urging the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and our California Congressional Delegation in joining us in partners to implement a Smart Housing Initiative in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Peevey".

Michael R. Peevey
President, California Public Utilities Commission