

That makes sense. As you're trying to get broadband spread throughout the country, make sure it's easy to build across Federal lands. One sure way to hold things up is that the Federal lands say, "You can't build on us." So how is some guy in remote Wyoming going to get any broadband technology? Regulatory policy has got to be wise and smart as we encourage the spread of this important technology. There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over powerlines. Powerlines were for electricity; powerlines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that.

And we need to open up more federally controlled wireless spectrum to auction in free public use, to make wireless broadband more accessible, reliable, and affordable. Listen, one of the technologies that's coming is wireless. And if you're living out in—I should—I was going to say Crawford, Texas, but it's not—maybe not nearly as remote. [Laughter] How about Terlingua, Texas? There's not a lot of wires out there. But wireless technology is going to change all that so long as Government policy makes sense.

And we're going to continue to support the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell—Chairman Michael Powell, under his leadership, his decision to eliminate burdensome regulations on new broadband networks availability to homes. In other words, clearing out the underbrush of regulation, and we'll get the spread of broadband technology, and America will be better for it.

I've come today to talk about practical ways to make sure we lead the world when it comes to innovation and change. And by leading the world when it comes to innovation and change, we'll make America a hopeful place for those who want to work and those who want to dream and those who want to start their own business.

And the community college system is an integral part of that strategy. That's what I'm here to tell you. It's an integral part so long as you're willing to listen to the needs of those who are looking for workers. It's an integral part so long as you continue to be

entrepreneurial in the delivery of education. The community college system is a cornerstone of good economic policy. It's a cornerstone of sound educational policy. And it's one of the reasons why I'm optimistic that America will lead—continue to lead the world when it comes to innovation and change. And that will be good for our people. That will be good for the revitalization of what I call the American spirit and the American dream.

I want to thank you for what you do. I appreciate your compassion. I appreciate your interest in the future of our country. May God continue to bless your work, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:29 a.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jesus "Jess" Carreon, chair of the board, and George R. Boggs, president and chief executive officer, American Association of Community Colleges; Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

Memorandum on Improving Rights-of-Way Management Across Federal Lands To Spur Greater Broadband Deployment

April 26, 2004

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Improving Rights-of-Way Management Across Federal Lands to Spur Greater Broadband Deployment

Broadband, also known as high-speed Internet access, has the potential to bring new services and products to American consumers and businesses, fostering innovation, investment, and job-producing economic growth. My Administration has long recognized the economic vitality that can result from broadband deployment and is working to create an environment to foster broadband deployment. All Americans should have affordable access to broadband technology by the year 2007.

A key to widespread broadband deployment is ensuring that broadband providers have timely and cost-effective access to rights-of-way so that they can build out their networks across the Nation. These networks often need to cross large areas of land owned or controlled by the Federal Government. Thus, effective and efficient Federal rights-of-way policies and practices are critical for promoting broadband deployment.

To ensure that the Federal Government's rights-of-way policies and practices facilitate the aggressive deployment of broadband networks, my Administration created a Federal Rights-of-Way Working Group composed of representatives from most of the major Federal agencies with land management responsibilities. The mission of the Working Group was to identify and recommend changes in Federal policies, procedures, regulations, and practices that would improve the process of granting rights-of-way for broadband communications networks on lands under Federal jurisdiction.

Based on information gathered from the communications industry, the Federal agencies, state, local, and tribal representatives, and other stakeholders, the Working Group has produced a report entitled, "Improving Rights-of-Way Management Across Federal Lands: A Roadmap for Greater Broadband Deployment," which sets forth specific recommendations in four main areas.

- (1) Information Access and Collection—to streamline and standardize applications to reduce the administrative burden and costs on broadband providers.
- (2) Timely Process—to speed Federal agencies' consideration of rights-of-way applications.
- (3) Fees—to ensure that fees charged by Federal agencies are reasonable and appropriate.
- (4) Compliance—to ensure that Federal agencies have the proper tools to promote compliance with rights-of-way grants or permits.

These recommendations are designed to assist Federal agencies in efficiently and effectively performing their vital role as stewards of the public lands, while working coop-

eratively with industry to spur broadband deployment.

Therefore, I hereby direct the heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take appropriate actions to implement the specific recommendations contained in the report to the maximum extent practicable and as permitted by law.

In addition, agencies should review their existing policies and procedures and identify any additional ways to improve the process for granting rights-of-way for broadband communications networks. Agencies should report to me, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, within 1 year of the date of this memorandum on all actions taken. The agencies shall take these actions using existing budget authority.

George W. Bush

Remarks in a Discussion on the Benefits of Health Care Information Technology in Baltimore, Maryland *April 27, 2004*

The President. Thanks a lot. Thanks for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for the hospitality. I'm really pleased to be here in the great city of Baltimore. Governor, I'm proud you're here. Thanks for greeting us at the airport—I mean, at the heliport. Thanks for bringing the first lady. Thanks for bringing the Lieutenant Governor as well. I'm proud you all are here.

I'm also proud to be with—in the presence of a man I still call Governor, Governor Schaefer. I'm proud you're here, Governor. He said he didn't care a whit about seeing me. He just wanted to make sure I gave his best to Mother. [*Laughter*] Still a plain-spoken fellow, aren't you?

But Governor, thanks, you're doing a great job for the State of Maryland, and congratulations on the newest Ehrlich.

Dutch Ruppersberger is with us today. Congressman, where are you? Oh, thanks for coming. Listen, I'm—here's the thing about the Congressman: He cares deeply about the people who wear the Nation's uniform. He's very much involved with programs to kind of lighten the load for our troops who are sacrificing and are working for a free world.