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MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FCC AND NARUC HOLD BROADBAND POLICY MEETING IN SAN JOSE
CPUC COMMISSIONER CHONG TO SPEAK ON STATE BROADBAND ISSUES**

SAN FRANCISCO, November 3, 2008 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will participate in "Broadband Summit: Connecting America," held by the Joint Conference on Advanced Services, composed of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). The Broadband Summit will be co-located with the Wireless Communications Association International's (WCAI) Silicon Valley Symposium running November 4-6, 2008, in San Jose.

- WHAT:** Broadband Summit: Connecting America
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 6, 2008, noon to 5:15 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fairmont Hotel, Atherton Room
170 S. Market St., San Jose, California
- WHY:** Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the FCC, as well as each state utility Commission, to encourage the reasonable and timely deployment of advanced telecommunications capability. Recognizing this, the FCC has established a Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services.

The broadband conference will provide a forum to discuss deployment of broadband and promote an exchange of information between state and federal regulatory agencies, and explore creative ways that will bring more advanced telecommunications services to all Americans.

In attendance at the meeting will be FCC Chairman Kevin Martin; FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, Federal Chair of the Joint Conference on Advanced Services; and the following state utility Commissioners: Larry Landis State Chair of the Joint Conference from Indiana, Rachele Chong from California, Mark Johnson from Alaska, Krista Tanner from Iowa. Commissioner Ray Baum from Oregon, Chair of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee, will also be in attendance.

Featured at the conference will be Daniel Ballon, Policy Fellow, Technology Studies, Pacific Research Institute, who will make a presentation on the future of broadband technologies. The new federal broadband mapping law will also be described by Drew Clark, Executive Director of BroadbandCensus.com. Thomas Koutsky of the Phoenix Center will present on the supply and demand-side drivers of broadband deployment and adoption. Douglas Garland of Google will present on "White Spaces: Access to the Future."

In addition, a spotlight will be put on broadband best practices from various states. The California Telehealth Network, whose genesis came from the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program, will be highlighted, with a demonstration project by Dr. Thomas Nesbitt, M.D. Chief of Staff Joe Camicia to the Office of the Chief Information Officer will present on the Governor's Broadband Task Force. Susan Walters, Senior Vice President of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), will discuss CETF's digital divide mission and present two California projects: Stride Center and The ACME Network. Dejeune Shelton and Maria Velasquez will present on a Great Valley Center project, Pixley Connect.



Executive Director Michael Ramage will present on the Connected Tennessee project. Commissioner Sharon Gillette, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable, will present on the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative. Steven Constantine, Director, GCI Medical Services, will present on the Alaska Telehealth Project. Jon Christensen will present on Open Range Communications.

"We are privileged to participate in this important meeting of the FCC-NARUC Joint Conference on Advanced Services," said CPUC Commissioner Rachelle Chong, who is a member of the state's Broadband Task Force and a member of the Joint Conference on Advanced Services. "California is honored to present some of our best state initiatives on broadband to the nation's top broadband regulators."

The California Broadband Task Force Report is available at www.calink.ca.gov/taskforcereport.

For more information about the WCAI's Silicon Valley Symposium, please visit: www.wcai.com/events.php.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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