



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kat Vann

(612) 879-7577

kat@mainstreetproject.org

Rural Broadband Policy Group Files FCC Comments

Main Street Project joins call for recommendations based on core principles

MINEAPOLIS, Minn., March 27, 2009 – Main Street Project joined with the Center for Rural Strategies and other members of the Rural Broadband Policy Group in filing comments this week with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The 2008 Farm Bill requires the FCC to: “identify how specific Federal agency programs and resources can best respond to rural broadband requirements and overcome obstacles.”

The Rural Broadband Policy Group urged the FCC to create a national broadband strategy focused on four main needs of rural communities:

- (1) Accurate data on service availability and adoption
- (2) Locally-owned infrastructure
- (3) Assistance in technology adoption
- (4) Uniform and transparent federal policies

The group also identified core principles that form the basis of their recommendations. “It’s important for the FCC to start with the principle that communication is a fundamental human right,” said Amalia Deloney, Senior Fellow at Main Street Project. “Rural residents need a comprehensive policy that allows them to participate in the national conversation about their future – across all media.” Other principles address the diversity of rural America, local ownership, self-reliance and investment in the community, and network neutrality.

A full copy of the filed FCC comments is available at www.mainstreetproject.org

###

*Main Street Project is a grassroots cultural organizing, economic development, and media justice initiative working to help rural communities face today's realities with hope. Visit us at **MainStreetProject.org**.*