

# Access Humboldt

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## **Access Humboldt joins national call for Broadband Principles Public comments filed with NTIA & RUS on Federal Stimulus Rules**

Eureka, CA - Access Humboldt joined with the Rural Internet and Broadband Policy Group, the Media and Democracy Coalition ([media-democracy.net](http://media-democracy.net)), and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors ([natoa.org](http://natoa.org)) in filing comments today with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the USDA's Rural Utility Service (RUS).

The Rural Internet and Broadband Policy Group, which also includes the California Center for Rural Policy based at Humboldt State University, proposed basic principles for rural broadband initiatives, including: Communication is a fundamental human right; diversity of rural America; local ownership, self reliance and investment in the community; and, network neutrality and open access.

Comments filed with the NTIA today addressed key elements of the federal broadband initiatives, including: Compensation for lack of private investment; funding priority for unserved communities; Unserved and Underserved definitions; invest in local projects; speed; mapping; adoption; matching requirements; digital inclusion; non-discrimination and interconnection; and the role of states and local jurisdictions.

Sean McLaughlin, executive director of Access Humboldt said, "residents of rural communities such as the Redwood Coast of California value basic human rights, including freedom of information and expression, 'by any media and regardless of frontiers.' So, we fully endorse these principles to advance broadband media access."

Specific needs identified for rural broadband include: locally-owned infrastructure; assistance in technology adoption; accurate data on service availability and adoption, and; uniform and transparent federal policies.

Access Humboldt is a non-profit community service organization created in 2006 to manage cable franchise benefits for the County of Humboldt and the Cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale and Blue Lake. Projects under development include Digital Redwoods, Access Humboldt Libraries and Digital Eureka. Broadband media access resources include cable TV channels, local fiber and wireless network connections, and a developing community media center at Eureka High School.  
Info: <http://accesshumboldt.net>

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"Local Voices Through Community Media  
Engage – Connect – Educate"

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