

Advocacy Submits Comment on the Recovery Act's Broadband Programs

On April 13, 2009, Advocacy filed a public comment letter with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") in response to the FCC's request for recommendations on their consultative role in the Recovery Act's broadband programs. Advocacy also filed its letter with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on considerations for NTIA and RUS in the broadband programs and the development of the socially and economically disadvantaged small business definition.

- Advocacy recommended that the Commission use its consultative role to:
 - (1) ensure consistency between the Recovery Act Programs and the its established principles and the Telecommunications Act,
 - (2) promote competition in unserved and underserved markets; and
 - (3) ensure regulatory certainty for loan recipients.

- Advocacy also urged NTIA and RUS to develop a definition for socially and economically disadvantaged small business that would:
 - (1) Allow for self-certification with respect to applicable size standards;
 - (2) Tailor the appropriate size standards to reflect current economic conditions within the U.S. telecommunications sector; and
 - (3) Reflect the ultimate objective of the socially and economically disadvantaged small business program.

Information on the proposed rule can be found on the FCC website at:
www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/.

A complete copy of Advocacy's letter may be accessed at:
<http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

For more information on this and other small business issues, visit Advocacy's website at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/> or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Cheryl Johns by e-mail at: cheryl.johns@sba.gov, or by phone at: (202) 205-6949.