



THE MAIN STREET AMERICA GROUP



March 26, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of The Main Street America Group and NGM Insurance Company, I want to strongly emphasize our commitment to the joint statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire.

The State of New Hampshire is working with New Hampshire FastRoads, a community broadband effort, to submit an application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program Round 2 program. We believe that our nearly 500 local employees, other area businesses and our community in general will benefit from the long-term benefits to be gained from more widespread connectivity in conjunction with additional price competition in New Hampshire.

While our business by virtue of its size and structure already enjoys high speed connectivity within our facilities, we believe more widely available, reliable and cost-effective broadband service will greatly benefit our customers – independent insurance agencies – and our agents' small business and residential customers. In particular, broadband connectivity will enable small- and medium-sized businesses to take root, operate and succeed with the efficiency and effectiveness needed in today's competitive environment.

For these reasons, Main Street America and NGM enthusiastically support New Hampshire's efforts to construct the Network New Hampshire Project and New Hampshire FastRoads. We urge you to fund and support this project.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey S. Molina
Vice President

cc: Thomas Dowling, Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce

Keene Office

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