



Business and Industry Association
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301
Tel: 603.224.5388 • Fax: 603.224.2872 • Web: www.nhbia.org

March 3, 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:

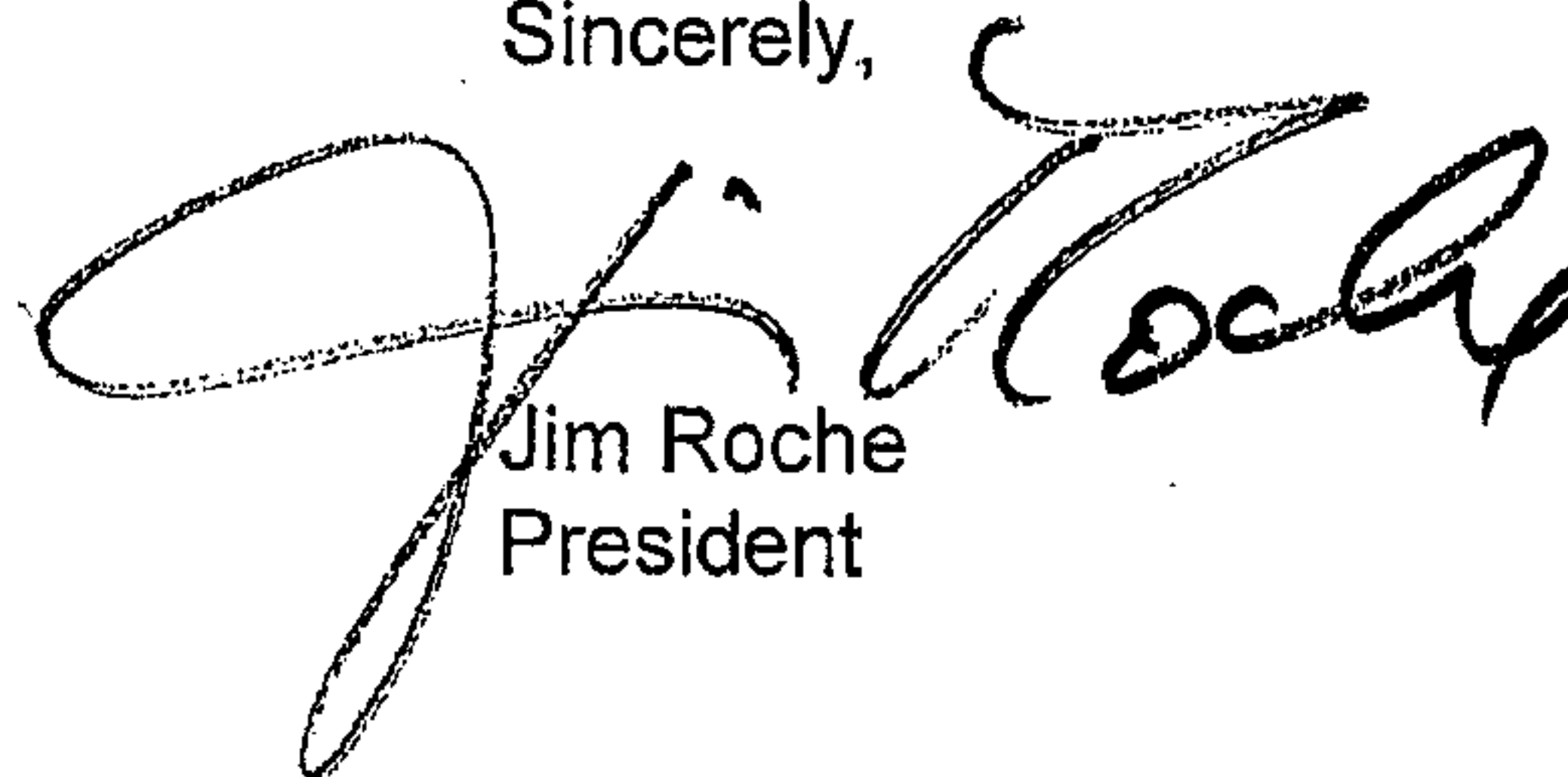
I am writing in support of efforts by the University System of New Hampshire, the Community College System of New Hampshire and other New Hampshire partners in the development of a statewide broadband proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2.

As background, the Business and Industry Association (BIA) is New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading business advocate. Through advocacy with state legislators and regulators, we shape business-friendly public policy and provide counterbalance to legislation and regulations that threaten the growth and prosperity of New Hampshire business. The BIA is New Hampshire's only broad-based, business advocacy organization. We monitor and respond to many issues that arise each year that directly impact businesses of all industries and sizes, providing them a direct connection to the legislative process.

In representing more than 400 members in a variety of industries, including advanced manufacturing, high technology, professional services, financial services, health care, hospitality and tourism, public utilities, higher education and insurance, it is clear that affordable, statewide broadband access is a key driver for economic growth in New Hampshire. It is a necessary component of an attractive business climate, and it's why the BIA supports this effort to deliver broadband Internet capacity over fiber optic, wire-line (DSL) and wireless technology throughout New Hampshire.

The proposed Network New Hampshire Project is a useful pathway to ensure a more reliable, capable, and secure network, with lower costs that will meet the needs of the public for greater broadband access. For all these reasons and more, the BIA supports New Hampshire's efforts at funding and constructing the Network New Hampshire Project.

Sincerely,



Jim Roche
President