



3 Barrell Court
Concord, NH 03301
www.nhcuc.org

March 19, 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 New Hampshire College & University Council, and our seventeen member higher education institutions, I wish to express strong commitment to the statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Clearly, all of higher education is negatively impacted by the severe lack of available connectivity in New Hampshire and from the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition.

Providing broadband coverage across New Hampshire is critical, especially to the significant number of small private colleges located in rural areas of the state. Currently several of our small colleges are struggling with inefficient and inadequate bandwidth, which places them and their students at a distinct educational disadvantage. In Rindge, NH Franklin Pierce University cannot access the bandwidth needed to offer their students the connectivity needed for many of the programs and educational offerings available at better connected institutions. In New London, NH Colby-Sawyer College faces the same difficulties and challenges. In Henniker, NH New England College simply cannot afford the high costs of accessing the full range of bandwidth from their remote location. This, unfortunately, is a story that is repeated on campuses all over the state of New Hampshire.

Without robust and reliable broadband connectivity New Hampshire's higher education sector cannot be competitive in the global landscape which is so critical to providing the educational experience students need. Every higher education institution relies on affordable and adequate connectivity in order to access the resources and programs available via the net. Many of New Hampshire's private colleges and universities are currently unable to expand services and educational offerings due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband. The Network New Hampshire Project being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful to every college and university in New Hampshire, and to the more than 70,000 students enrolled at both public and private higher education institutions in the state.

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If New Hampshire is a recipient of this critical funding New Hampshire's private colleges and universities, in partnership with the public colleges and universities in the state, will provide significant and on-going cash and in-kind match to this project.

Each of the member institutions of the New Hampshire College & University Council are enthusiastic supporters of this proposal as developed by the University of New Hampshire and look forward to working with the University in bringing broadband services and connectivity to each of the NHCUC member campuses across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Horgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas R. Horgan
President and CEO