



Office of the President
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March 18, 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 Keene State College I wish to express our commitment to the statewide broadband proposal titled Network New Hampshire Now (#4248) submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Keene State College is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is vital to the mission and work of our College and the greater Monadnock community. Educational institutions like Keene State College require network resources that are dynamic, scalable, and provide high bandwidth transfer at a low cost basis. Broadband services directly support our ability to collaborate with our peers sharing expertise, tools and facilities along with specialized research projects. Inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband in our surrounding communities also challenges our ability to provide distance learning opportunities for students outside of our physical institution. Furthermore, broadband services are vital to statewide communications during emergencies such as, flooding and ice storm events experienced in this region over the past several years. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will provide the broadband services that we require and be extremely valuable for us, and hence to our customers.

For these reasons, we at Keene State College are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New

Hampshire Now Project. We encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a customer of the finished network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen J. Giles-Gee".

Dr. Helen Giles-Gee
President
Keene State College