

UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

March 22, 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 University of New Hampshire, I wish to express our commitment to the statewide broadband proposal, "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. The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is affected 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.

UNH is the flagship public higher education institution in New Hampshire. We provide education, research and outreach services to citizens of New Hampshire, but we can and should be doing more to advance New Hampshire's economy.

1. We currently have the capability to provide online learning, but many New Hampshire citizens cannot avail themselves of the online classes because not all communities have access to quality, affordable broadband services. The lack of broadband prevents individuals from attaining skills needed for today's global workplace.
2. Today's education, especially in the sciences, requires complex visualizations and datasets; faculty and students both on and off our campuses need reliable, high speed networks to create and share knowledge. The lack of broadband inhibits teachers and learners from leveraging the rich resources of the internet.
3. UNH's elite researchers need to collaborate with peers in research and business around the globe so that our research translates into products and services that fuel economic growth; technology tools such as advanced collaboration and high definition video conferencing are table-stakes. The lack of broadband inhibits the technology-enabled partnerships expected by today's research & business communities.



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4. UNH is charged with outreach to communities throughout our state, many in rural areas where terrestrial and wireless broadband is limited or unavailable – therefore making our valuable resources difficult or impossible for many citizens to access.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to UNH – and to the State of New Hampshire. We rely on broadband to be successful in our mission of 1) providing affordable, quality education to our citizens, 2) being a premier research institution, and 3) making our resources available through outreach to all NH citizens. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely critical to the University's work, and, in turn, to our stakeholders, the citizens of New Hampshire.

For these reasons, we at the University of New Hampshire 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Huddleston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark W. Huddleston
President