August 11, 2009

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

Re: Broadband Opportunities Program, Public Computer Centers Program

On behalf of the Department of the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, I am writing in support of the New Hampshire State Library’s federal grant application under the Broadband Opportunities Program, Public Computer Centers Program. The proposal addresses the opportunity in New Hampshire for access to high speed internet service in communities in need of extra capacity or communications. The State Library is applying, under the BTOP, for funds to develop three mobile computer labs.

We recognize that access to broadband at the community level is a powerful driver of economic growth and opportunity. Having this mobile capacity will allow job training to occur, as well as assisting the State in the delivery of resources to unemployed workers in rapid response scenarios. Additionally, during natural disasters, public and private entities will have the capability of visiting these centers and communicating directly with the Department of Safety and DRED – the two agencies that historically have cooperated on community recovery efforts. This is a win for all three agencies, and a good return on investment from the federal perspective. We urge you to consider this application for funding, and I look forward to working with the State Library to assist in its implementation.

Sincerely,

George M. Bald  
Commissioner

GMB:lc