



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:

I am writing to support the New Hampshire broadband proposal being submitted by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on behalf of UNH and NH FastRoads. Cheshire Medical Center / Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene is impacted directly by the lack of available universal connectivity, and by the high cost of connectivity, due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire. As a business leader in our community and as a member of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock health system, we realize the time is now for enhanced broadband connectivity as we know the future will demand better, faster and less expensive broadband services in order to ensure a healthier community and remain competitive in today's evolving marketplace.

Affordable and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to Cheshire Medical Center / Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene. We rely on broadband to share medical information, to connect with our patients, to offer health education and to promote important health services and programs. Currently many of our patients and their families are unable to access web based services which allow them to request doctor's appointments, refill prescriptions online, get results of laboratory tests, contact their physician or sign up for a community health education classes. The Network New Hampshire Project being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful for us, and to our patients and their families.

For these reasons, and others, Cheshire Medical Center/ Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene is enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts for constructing the Network New Hampshire Project and NH FastRoads. As an organization that is working with our community to become the healthiest in the nation by the year 2020, we strongly encourage a favorable response to the funding request. We look forward to being a client of the finished network and to a time when important and reliable health information is able to flow to our patients via this proposed new broadband information super highway.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Link  
Administrative Director  
Marketing, Planning, Development & Community Relations