



March 25, 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 City of Claremont, 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. Some residents and businesses within the City of Claremont are impacted 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 critical to our community. We rely on broadband to promote new business, help our small businesses grow, telemarketing from home and other home based business needs and develop our international relationships. We currently have a fairly large rural population that can not adequately compete in today's economy due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband services. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely useful for us, and hence to our customers and citizens.

In anticipation of this project, the City of Claremont commits a \$5,000 cash match.

For these reasons, we at the City of Claremont 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 black ink that reads "Guy A. Santagate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Guy A. Santagate
City Manager