

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

March 24, 2010

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing on behalf of my many constituents here in the State of New Hampshire, as I wish to express my support for 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. I represent Sanbornton and Tilton in the Lakes Region and am also the Public Policy Representative of the LRGHealthcare system, both of which will benefit from this expansion. LRGHealthcare is already providing telehealth psychiatric services to citizens between its two hospitals, but will be able to do so much more when high speed broadband services are available. My constituents in Sanbornton on the west side of Highway 93, many of whom are small business owners, are dependent upon dial up service at present, which is totally inadequate for their business needs and growth. This NNHN initiative will be a help to all in the region and enable economic development in our rural community.

There are other BIP and BTOP initiatives of which I am supportive, but this NNHN truly embraces the principle of open access and competitive service. Having been involved in community development work and non-profit activity, its innovative approach to bringing various shareholders together is laudable.

Sincerely,

Representative Elizabeth Merry
Belknap County
District 2, Sanbornton/Tilton
232 Tower Hill Road
Sanbornton, NH 03269