

March 15, 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:

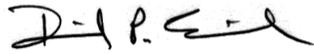
We at Dartmouth-Hitchcock are pleased to support the joint statewide broadband BTOP-CCI application submitted by the University of New Hampshire. The State of New Hampshire will be submitting a joint application on behalf of several colleges and universities as well as Network New Hampshire Now, a community broadband effort, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Our patients, staff and medical professionals are impacted directly by the lack of available, affordable broadband connectivity in New Hampshire.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is comprised of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, Dartmouth Medical School and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The BTOP-CCI initiative that is the focus of this grant application is strategically and tactically aligned with the new vision Dartmouth-Hitchcock adopted in 2007: “Achieve the healthiest population possible, leading the transformation of health care in our region and setting the standard for our nation.” Internet-enabled access to medical records and remote clinical monitoring of chronic health conditions are rapidly becoming essential to advancing health care while controlling costs – it is therefore essential to expand broadband access to our patients and staff, especially in rural settings.

Towards this end, we also have an application for BTOP funding in the Sustainable Broadband Access (SBA) category (ID#6720), which focuses on broadband access and demand for targeted populations. While the State of New Hampshire/Network New Hampshire application and our demand-side proposal are not dependent on one another, they are deeply synergistic and mutually-supporting, and the addition of much-needed infrastructure in our region would assist greatly in our planned initiatives and service delivery.

We have had a very positive and long-standing relationship with all of the Partner agencies, and will attest to their depth of experience, capability and proven dedication towards achieving the goal of greater broadband access regionally. Dartmouth-Hitchcock enthusiastically supports New Hampshire's efforts in this area, and we encourage the funding of this project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. P. Evancich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

David P. Evancich Vice President