



School Administrative Unit 70

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Wayne F. Gersen, *Superintendent*
John P. Aubin, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*
Joanne M. Roberts, *Assistant Superintendent for Student Services*

Hanover
High School

Frances C.
Richmond
Middle School

Bernice A. Ray
School

Marion W. Cross
School

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, DC 20230

Re: Network New Hampshire Now/NH FastRoads (#4248)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

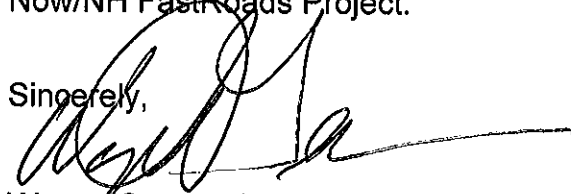
As Superintendent of Schools of SAU 70, which includes the towns of Hanover, New Hampshire and Norwich, Vermont, I am writing to offer my strong support for the statewide broadband proposal titled Network New Hampshire Now/NH FastRoads (#4248) submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. In a district that serves the communities that include employees of Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and an array of high tech businesses, it is unacceptable that roughly one-third of the households in our communities do not have access to high speed internet. This means that a sizable minority of our students do not have access to the wealth of resources that are available on-line to support and/or enhance their learning opportunities.

Most importantly, an even higher percentage of our faculty members and administrators--- myself included--- lack high-speed internet access. This limited access to the internet stunts our school district's ability to introduce high tech solutions to our instruction and challenges teachers who increasingly need to avail themselves of web-based recordkeeping at the State and local level. If teachers cannot interact with students in real time, cannot gain remote access to the grade books that we now keep electronically at our schools, and cannot engage in the many asynchronous teaching and learning opportunities that are possible with high-speed internet, our ability to innovate is hampered.

Before moving to this area, the district where I worked ten years ago had these services available throughout their attendance area. In this day and age of rich on-line resources, regions like the Upper Valley and districts in the Upper Valley are falling behind... in some cases a decade or more behind. We need affordable high-speed internet connections now.

For all of the reasons outlined above, I enthusiastically support New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now/NH FastRoads Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Gersen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wayne Gersen, Ed. D.
Superintendent, SAU 70