



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:

On behalf of the Town of Hanover, I wish to express our 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. Our town is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate competition in New Hampshire.

The Town of Hanover has been actively involved in pushing for rural broadband deployment in the west central portion of the state for well over a decade. Several years ago we helped to form West Central New Hampshire (WCNH), a consortium of eight towns lacking high speed internet access, in an effort to push for municipal deployment of high speed internet service. Our communities have been forced to work together due to a lack of interest on the part of private telecommunications firms to deploy in this rural area of New Hampshire. In spite of Hanover's role as host to Dartmouth College, the largest major medical center north of Boston (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center) and many successful high technology companies, many of our local businesses, institutions and citizens struggle to obtain high speed internet access. Those entities that do have high speed internet access pay dearly for it due to a lack of competition. Most businesses and residents situated beyond the immediate downtown area must still settle for dial-up service. Physically, well over 70% of the Hanover community is un-served, leaving approximately 50% of our residents without high speed internet access.

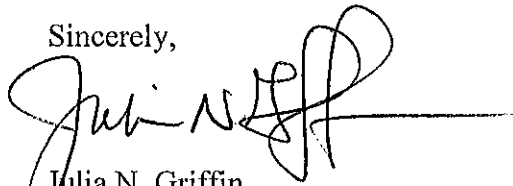
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In our region, the quaint New England villages that surround Hanover and are home to many Dartmouth faculty, DHMC physicians and staff, and the region's many entrepreneurs can offer only dial-up internet access. FairPoint and Comcast provide limited DSL and cable modem service at comparatively high cost. Without competition and due to the relative high cost to deploy beyond the settled core of local cities and towns, the incumbent providers are simply not in a position to expand service in the near future. Other internet providers are few and far between. High cost satellite service and wireless internet services are available to a limited number of residential customers but have significant limitations, both in terms of download and upload capability and lack of reliability due to weather conditions. In short, many of our residents simply have no hope of high speed internet service without the intervention of local, state and federal government agencies and resources.

Please allow this letter to also serve as a notice of the Town of Hanover's intent to purchase services from the NH FastRoads Network, should the network be constructed.

For these reasons, we are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now/NH FastRoads 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, appearing to read "Julia N. Griffin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julia N. Griffin
Town Manager