



## OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

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March 24, 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 Town of Rindge, I wish to express our commitment to the joint statewide broadband proposal 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 NH FastRoads, a community broadband effort, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. The Town of Rindge is impacted directly by lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

Rindge is located in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire, also known as the "quiet corner" of the State. Rindge is a "border town" sharing its southerly and easterly borders with Massachusetts and is located 30 miles from the Vermont border. As a gateway town in a state with no sales tax, Rindge is an attractive location for retail businesses. 12,000 to 15,000 people come to Rindge everyday to shop. In an effort to expand its tax base, Rindge has mounted a major effort to attract other business and industry but this effort has been thwarted by the town's lack of high speed internet service. If Broadband was to come to Rindge, the potential for economic development would be limitless.

Dr. Robert Weinberg, PhD., a Founding Member of the Whitehead Institute at MIT, is a pioneer in cancer research. He is most widely known for his discoveries of the first human ontogeny (a gene that causes normal cells to form tumors) and the first tumor suppressor gene. His research lab is currently focusing on the processes by which cancer cells invade and metastasize. Dr. Weinberg told us about his need for dependable, high speed internet service: "I conduct much of my cancer research work via the net, including the editing of manuscript from members of my research lab at the Whitehead Institute/MIT, reviewing manuscripts that have been submitted to journals that have requested my critiques, reading current scientific literature, and of late, revising a 700+ page cancer biology textbook written for advanced undergraduates and doctoral students. Almost all of this depends on internet access. While there is some web access in Rindge at present, it requires improvement, as it is not as rapid as it needs



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to be for my purposes. Since I spend 2.5 months a year in Rindge, this web access has become a critical component of my being able to function efficiently." It is in the interest of all of us to facilitate Dr. Weinberg's continued research!

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to The Town of Rindge. We rely on broadband to conduct our every day business in the Town of Rindge and for our Residents. We are currently unable to expand our services due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband services. The Network New Hampshire Project being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful for us, and hence to our residents.

For these reasons, we at the Town of Rindge are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Project and NH FastRoads. We encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a customer of the finished network.

Sincerely,

Burton E. Goodrich, Jr.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen