

GRAFTON COUNTY

Grafton County Complex
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy, Box 5
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tel: (603)787-6944
Fax: (603) 787-2009
grafton@ccunh.unh.edu



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

March 19, 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:

Please help us to bring support for business, education and industry to New Hampshire's North Country. On behalf of UNH Cooperative Extension, Grafton County, I wish to express our support and commitment to 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. Grafton County is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

The need for broadband availability for economic development is crucial to the region we serve. Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to UNH Cooperative Extension's mission, i.e. to provide NH citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions which strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy. We rely on Internet connectivity to communicate with colleagues, volunteers, and clientele throughout the state. Due to the limited broadband access in the North Country of New Hampshire, our ability to use new technology with our audiences is limited and not affordable for the average consumer of our educational services. By passing the bill and increasing access, we can add to the entrepreneurial and business expansion opportunities in our North Country. We can increase the on-line educational opportunities for our citizenry in critically needed area.

We are currently unable to expand our services due to inadequate available infrastructure as well as limitations on public support for these endeavors. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely useful for us. It will enhance our ability to communicate with colleagues throughout the state, region and nation. It will also improve our ability to work with our local volunteers and provide us with the affordable broadband connectivity we need to communicate and deliver programs to clientele.

For these reasons, we at UNH Cooperative Extension, Grafton County, are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now

County Offices

Belknap County
527-5475

Carroll County
447-3834

Cheshire County
352-4550

Coos County
788-4961

Hillsborough County
641-6060

Merrimack County
796-2151

Rockingham County
679-5616

Strafford County
749-4445

Sullivan County
863-9200

GRAFTON COUNTY

Grafton County Complex
 3855 Dartmouth College Hwy, Box 5
 N. Haverhill, NH 03774-4909
 Tel: (603) 787-6944
 Fax: (603) 787-2009
grafton@ceunh.unh.edu



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

COUNTY OFFICES

Belknap County
 524-5475

Carroll County
 539-3331

Cheshire County
 352-4550

Coos County
 788-4961

Hillsborough County
 641-6060

Merrimack County
 225-5505

Rockingham County
 679-5616

Strafford County
 749-4445

Sullivan County
 863-9200

Project. We look forward to being a user of and provider on the finished network. We encourage the funding and construction of this project.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Jablonski, M.Ed.

County Office Administrator and Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development