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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, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce, 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.

The success of area businesses in our region is directly impacted by broadband access. Affordable access is critical to overcoming the challenges of both recruiting and retaining good companies and people in and around the Hanover Area. Currently the lack of accessibility and the high cost to gain access prohibit many start up companies, small home businesses and flexible workplaces to be competitive.

In our bi-state region, FairPoint and Comcast provide limited DSL and cable modem service at a high cost. High cost satellite service and wireless Internet services are available to a limited number of customers and have issues related to download and upload capability and lack of reliability due to weather conditions. With no private companies currently interested in entering our market because of the cost to expand beyond the downtowns, businesses located outside of the downtowns recognize the barriers to competition.

The urgency for connectivity now and well in to the future presents the difference between success and a clear disadvantage to area businesses. The reality: many of our businesses will have to make tough decisions about their businesses remaining competitive and staying local. Economic development can only occur if there is high-speed Internet service coming

the best chance for this to occur at this time is by working local, state and federal government agencies and resources. Please approve Network New Hampshire Now/NH FastRoads (#4248) and help us make our region a real option for growing and incubating NH business community.

As a local organization representing over 350 businesses of all types and sizes in the region including Dartmouth College, the largest major medical center north of Boston - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center- and many successful high tech and web based companies, we write to you today to let you know, The Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce wholly supports the statewide broadband proposal

We look forward to the funding and construction of this project, and to presenting this affordable option to our membership.

Sincerely,

Janet Rebman
Executive Director