

2010 APR 20
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UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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UNH Cooperative
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862-1520

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, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of UNH Cooperative Extension, Hillsborough 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. Hillsborough 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.

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.

A Design Charrette to plan the future uses of the Hillsborough County farm property, conducted in late 2009 and facilitated by Cooperative Extension will indicate in a soon-to-be-released report local and county stakeholder support and recommendation for increased capacity to deliver distance learning initiatives. The draft report includes the following "The land offers many educational opportunities for demonstration projects and best practices in forest management, agriculture, alternative energy and community gardens". Capacity to deliver web-based video clips, and podcasts would be a tremendous asset.

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, Hillsborough County, are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now 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,

Daniel F. Reidy
Office Administrator

