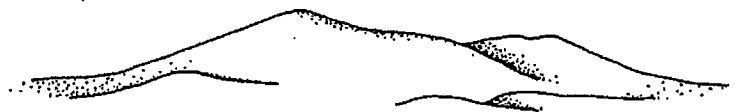


Jerome E. Frew, MEd  
Superintendent

Robin Steiner, MAT  
Assistant Superintendent



# KEARSARGE

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT/SAU #65

Lawrence LeBoeuf, BS  
Business Administrator  
Lawrence Elliott, MEd  
Director of Student Support Services

March 18, 2010

*We shall provide an equitable and challenging educational opportunity  
for each learner  
in a district that is safe, healthy, caring, respectful, and supportive.*

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:

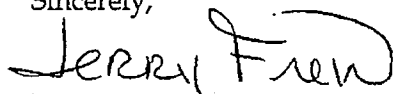
For five years, the Kearsarge Regional School District has been monitoring regional discussions regarding public broadband initiatives and has been supportive of WCNH.net's efforts to bring affordable high-speed internet access to this region. On behalf of the District, I wish to express our support for the joint statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire in conjunction with NH FastRoads (a consortium of the NH Community Development Finance Authority, the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation, and 43 towns in the Monadnock and Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee regions of New Hampshire). I understand that the State of New Hampshire will be submitting a joint application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program.

The Kearsarge Regional School District is impacted directly by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire. The School District spends almost \$100,000 per year for T-1 connections for its SAU building and seven school buildings. As every penny that we spend on broadband is one less penny that can be spent on education, we welcome the availability of less costly alternatives.

Furthermore, the District recently initiated the Learning on Line/Blizzard Bag program, in which the District was given permission by the State Department of Education to allow students to complete up to three emergency days through Learning on Line/Blizzard Bag lesson plans. These days will count as "traditional" school days in the event that school is cancelled; however, teachers and students are encouraged to communicate on-line and many of the families in our district do not have, or cannot afford, access to the internet.

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 the residents of our district. Please allow this letter to also serve as a notice of intent to purchase services from the Network NH Project/NH Fastroads Network, should the network be constructed. We at the Kearsarge Regional School District encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a customer of the finished network.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry Frew, Superintendent