



City of Keene

3 Washington Street

New Hampshire 03431

Philip "Dale" Pregent
Mayor

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 the City of Keene, I wish to express our commitment to the joint statewide broadband proposal. The State of New Hampshire will be submitting a joint application on behalf of the University of New Hampshire as well as NH FastRoads, a community broadband effort, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 grant opportunity. The current shortage of affordable high-bandwidth broadband services throughout the region directly impacts business and residential resources and is a top priority economic development problem.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity throughout the Monadnock Region is critical to Keene businesses and residents. We rely on broadband to attract and retain businesses and a skilled workforce. We rely on broadband to maintain critical connections with other State agencies in providing government services to the public in an efficient, affordable fashion. We rely on broadband to empower businesses to compete in a global economy. The Network New Hampshire and FastRoads projects included in the State of New Hampshire BTOP application are critical to the future of this wonderful community.

For these reasons, we at the City of Keene 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,

Philip Dale Pregent
Mayor