

March 23, 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:

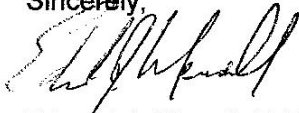
As Chair of the Jaffrey Planning Board, I wish to express my enthusiastic support of the joint statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. The proposal, titled Network New Hampshire Now (#4248), results from a broad-based coalition that includes higher education, public safety, and state government, as well as NH FastRoads, a community broadband effort.

In our 2006 Jaffrey, New Hampshire Master Plan revision, we state "Within the coming decade, with Broadband-over-Powerline (BPL) service and other innovations becoming a distinct possibility in this country, the Town will be called upon to cooperate with our neighbors to ensure that the Monadnock region is in the vanguard of communication capacity." Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to Jaffrey and our neighbors.

Further in our vision statement, we state "The Town should also explore improvements to its communication infrastructure, notably high-speed Internet access, to encourage the development of communication-based and high-tech business." We rely on broadband to spur economic development and educate our community. We are currently unable to expand our reach due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband services. The Network New Hampshire Project being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will enable Jaffrey to participate in the world economy.

For these reasons, I am enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Project and trust that your grant application will be successful.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Merrell, P.E.