



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, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

For five years, New London Hospital has been participating in 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 Hospital, 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.

New London Hospital is impacted directly by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire. New London Hospital is a private non-profit institution and, in this day of reduced federal reimbursements, must constantly be wary of its bottom line.

The Network New Hampshire Now Project being proposed by the statewide group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful for our providers, employees and patients. With expanded broadband access, the Hospital could provide additional telemedicine services, including remote mental health counseling and remote monitoring of chronic health conditions. Our doctors could have enhanced access to patient medical information and records from home, which would save them often lengthy and sometimes dangerous trips (e.g. during snowstorms) to our facility. The ability to review x-ray and radiology results from home requires a very high capacity connection. The cost to do this using DSL or cable modem (which is often not available at all) is prohibitive.

Please allow this letter to also serve as a notice of interest in purchasing services from the NH Fastroads Network, should the network be constructed. We at New London Hospital encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to the finished network.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. King  
President/CEO