



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY



Department of Cultural Resources • Division of Libraries

20 Park Street • Concord, New Hampshire 03301

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

**Re: Letter of support for Network New Hampshire Now (NNHN)**

Dear Assistant Secretary of Commerce Strickling:

Network New Hampshire Now (NNHN) (#4248) is an historic collaborative effort for a statewide fiber optic infrastructure that will optimize access for New Hampshire's community anchor institutions including its 234 public libraries. The New Hampshire State Librarian, Michael York, has authorized me, on behalf of the New Hampshire State Library, to champion and wholly endorse the proposed broadband infrastructure activities put forth in the University of New Hampshire's NTIA BTOP Round 2 application. The State Library is uniquely positioned to represent the interests of and to aggregate the statewide demand for essential services deliverable through broadband connections to public libraries.

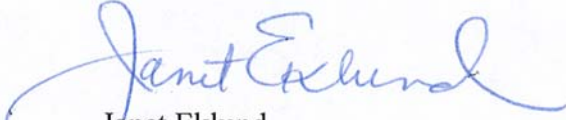
The State Library annually administers \$1.2 million received through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. These funds are used to supply free content and bibliographic data to all New Hampshire residents contained in high quality research databases, 10,000 full-text electronic journals, newspapers and 2 million shared library resources. Job searches, education and interaction with e-government services currently stand out as urgent needs in our libraries. More than half of New Hampshire's public libraries are in danger of being left behind simply because inadequate bandwidth connectivity is the only option. Since broadband access tracks closely with socio-economic inequality, access to robust and reliable broadband connectivity becomes central to the economic inclusion mission of New Hampshire's libraries.

The New Hampshire State Library is financially unable to commit matching state cash dollars to this project. In anticipation of project commencement, we do commit the time and expertise of our State Library information technology personnel to promote standardization and configuration to connect to the fiber network, to aggregate library adoption efforts, to provide networking technical support for libraries, to educate librarians in the deployment process and to provide

training for end users in utilizing the crucial information transmitted to libraries over the fiber network. This in-kind contribution has a value of \$45,000 over the 3 years of the project.

We believe that a statewide fiber optic installation is the best solution to address the current and long-term broadband needs of New Hampshire's public libraries as community anchor institutions. We unreservedly support the Network New Hampshire Now project. We look forward to being a participant, promoter and facilitator of the finished network.

Sincerely



Janet Eklund  
Administrator of Library Operations