August 14, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, Broadband Initiatives Program

On behalf of the AGENCY, I am writing in support of the State of New Hampshire application under the Broadband Opportunities Technology (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Programs (BIP). This comprehensive proposal addresses the opportunity in New Hampshire to provide internet access and infrastructure to those most in need. The University of New Hampshire is the designated applicant for the State of New Hampshire and will serve as the entity of authority during the implementation phase.

On one particular project, a microwave wireless network, State agencies have worked diligently to find areas where the public safety infrastructure can be improved to the betterment of the state and its citizens. By utilizing ARRA funds to upgrade needed wireless radios, and by combining tower space, agencies are now free to explore agreements with a fiber vendor to secure greater bandwidth through incentivized build out to remote mountaintop areas. Fiber laid to the base of these mountains will provide long term IRUs to agencies, and extra bandwidth on the open market. It is an excellent return on investment, and meets the key criterion of serving public safety through the BTOPs program.

This project represents far more than a request for funding, but it is the culmination of collaboration and effort between diverse agencies and stakeholders; a long overdue dialog that has fostered an examination of our current resources and provided opportunity to move technology to a point so necessary for today's public safety needs. By providing us with the opportunity to purchase new technology, you have also stimulated the discussion by which we work together to structure our wireless tower sites.

We urge you to consider this application for funding and I look forward to working with our partners to assist in its implementation.

Colonel Frederick H. Booth
Director

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