



Dartmouth

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THE PRESIDENT

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

On behalf of Dartmouth College, I wish to express our commitment to the Network New Hampshire Project, the statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program.

Dartmouth is one of the largest employers and telecommunications users in the Upper Valley region of western New Hampshire. The lack of available connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition has had a negative impact on the College and nearby cities and towns. Our mission is increasingly dependent on high-speed communications, but the region's telecommunications infrastructure is aging and out of sync with our internal capabilities. The majority of our employees live within 50 miles of campus, but only a few can connect to Dartmouth's network via broadband because of the limited availability of this service. For example, faculty and information technology staff who live three miles from campus in the village of Etna have only dial-up or satellite access to the Internet.

This a gap that the marketplace cannot fill. Fairpoint, the incumbent telephone company, recently entered bankruptcy and has an aging copper network and limited DSL deployment. The cable companies cover only the densest portions of a handful of towns. Low population density in the more than 50 towns of the Upper Valley makes it unattractive to other private telecommunications operators, while rolling topography makes wireless communications difficult.

Given the information-intensive nature of academic work and administrative support, it is essential to have the capacity to connect with off-campus users at the same speeds available to on-campus users. Ubiquitous high-speed access will increase productivity by enabling faculty to collaborate with researchers around the world from their homes as well as from their offices and

laboratories. It will also support the educational, research, and service missions of the College by connecting employees, off-campus students, and local citizens to our vast array of curricular and co-curricular activities.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical. It brings important data and information to Dartmouth and brings Dartmouth to the world. For example, the Computational Genetics Laboratory has received multiple National Institutes of Health grants that enable collaboration with researchers from the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, Brown University, and the Transformational Genomics Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. High speed connectivity with multiple pathways is essential to ensuring this transformational research work continues without interruption.

Members of the Dartmouth community see ubiquitous high speed access as critical to their missions of teaching, scholarship, community service, and healing.

- David Kotz, professor of computer science and associate dean of the sciences, sees the network supporting rich collaborations—audio/video conferencing, presentation sharing, and dataset visualization—with museums, local schools, and universities around the world. Given that international collaborations can take place at any time, faculty and staff need high speed connectivity where they live as well as where they work.
- The Tuck School of Business foresees bringing more executives into the classroom through video as guest lecturers and speakers, facilitating virtual roundtables for technology executives, and developing a research stream on collaboration.
- The Thayer School of Engineering anticipates a wide variety of applications and uses, including improved energy management at a community level, maps for community energy education, awareness about energy usage, and remote monitoring and control of laboratory experiments.
- Dartmouth and the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC)—comprised of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, Dartmouth Medical School, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center—are working closely on a range of initiatives, including the study of effective health care delivery. With a latency-free connection to the Internet, patient portals, remote clinical monitoring of chronic health conditions, and many other innovations essential to advancing health care while controlling costs become possible. This in turn could lead to practices scaled for national adoption in what we expect to be an exciting new field in medicine.

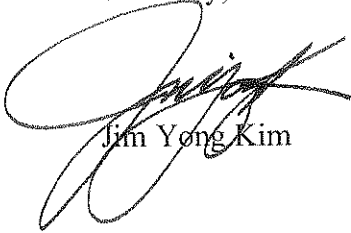
In addition to greatly improving the productivity and access of those in our College community and region, the Network New Hampshire Project will also enhance the “Big Green Panther” broadband project that Dartmouth and the University of New Hampshire System are building with Federal funds from NIH and NSF. This collaboration between Dartmouth and UNHS

already illustrates the commitment both institutions have to bringing high speed access to our regions, and to providing the support and oversight that will make this proposal successful.

Dartmouth's commitment to the project will include providing our networking expertise to communities and agencies on the regional build out for the project. The value of this contribution is expected to be more than \$300,000 over the course of the project.

Dartmouth enthusiastically supports the University of New Hampshire System's efforts to build Network New Hampshire. We encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a key leader of the finished network.

Sincerely,



Jim Yong Kim