

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

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**UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

March 22, 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:

On behalf of UNH Cooperative Extension, Rockingham County, I wish to express our support and commitment to the statewide broadband proposal titled Network New Hampshire Now (#4248) submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Rockingham County is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to UNH Cooperative Extension's mission, i.e. to provide NH citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions which strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy. We rely on Internet connectivity to communicate with colleagues, volunteers, and clientele throughout the state. In-service trainings, meetings, and programming increasingly take place through videoconferencing, Webinars, web-based video clips, Podcasts, and Captivate. These can be more cost-effective than the travel and overnight accommodations that are required for face-to-face interaction, and can benefit private business, health care, and other educational organizations in a similar way.

We are currently unable to expand our services due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband services. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely useful for us. It will enhance our ability to communicate with colleagues throughout the state, region and nation. It will also improve our ability to work with our local volunteers and provide us with the affordable broadband connectivity we need to communicate and deliver programs to clientele.

For these reasons, we at UNH Cooperative Extension, Rockingham County are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now Project. We look forward to being a user of and provider on the finished network. We encourage the funding and construction of this project.

Sincerely,

Claudia Booser-Blasco, M.Ed.  
 County Office Administrator  
 Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Resources

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