



March 18, 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 Sidehill Consulting, I wish to express our support for, and desperate need of, the joint statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire. The State of New Hampshire will be submitting a joint application on behalf of several colleges and universities as well as NH FastRoads, a community broadband effort, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. My firm and a large portion of our local clients are experience an increasing degree of lost opportunity and revenue directly from a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of what connectivity we can access due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

Our local region contains a larger than normal proportion of specialty firms that serve niche markets around the globe. Our ability to compete, grow, and thrive in a global economy is **critically dependant** on our ability to connect to that global economy with reliable, high speed, and price competitive connectivity. For example, I simply can not provide an effective e-learning experience that assists local precision device manufacturing firm in training their global distribution channel. My client does not have access to a reliable broadband connection at their headquarters facility, which is located just 2 miles outside of the Keene, NH town line. That negatively impacts sales potential their image, and ultimately, their survival, as well as my own.

The Network New Hampshire Project being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful for us, and hence to our customers.

For these reasons, Sidehill is enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Project and NH FastRoads. We encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a customer of the finished network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon D. Anderson
President