



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 Lake Sunapee Bank, I want to take this opportunity to express to you our support for the joint statewide broadband proposal that the State of New Hampshire will be submitting an application for on behalf of several colleges and universities as well as NH FastRoads, a community-based broadband effort, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program.

Our area of New Hampshire is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate competition on pricing in New Hampshire. Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to the expansion of businesses will serve that will have a ever greater need to rely on broadband as the pace of commerce quickens over the years ahead. The Network New Hampshire Project now being proposed by the statewide partner group led by the University of New Hampshire will be extremely useful and beneficial for all concerned parties

For these reasons, we are enthusiastically in support of New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Project and NH FastRoads. We encourage your most serious consideration for the funding and construction of this project.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Ensign
Chairman and CEO