



March 25, 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:

Bretton Woods Telephone Co. (BWTC) is a small Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) located in Coos County which has been economically devastated from the closing of several paper mills and thus has the highest unemployment rate of all counties within the State of New Hampshire. Located within our franchised serving area is the Mt. Washington Resort which annually employs +700 people. As one of the largest remaining employers in Coos County it is totally dependent upon tourism dollars for survivability. In order to effectively compete for tourist dollars, we have to be able to maintain as high a standard of connectivity in this remote area of New Hampshire as guests would expect to have in a more urban setting.

BWTC applied for and has been named as an eligible recipient of a BIP grant in order to bring an advanced and scalable broadband network (FTTX) to both our business and residential communities located here. This will ensure that our customers will have the last mile infrastructure in place to bridge the technological divide.

We are impacted directly by both the monopolistic connectivity available and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire. Therefore, we would like to express our 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.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to BWTC and our customer base which relies so heavily on tourism dollars. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely useful for us, and hence to our customers.

Therefore, BWTC is enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Nicholson", is written over a horizontal line.

Art Nicholson
Network Manager

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