

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
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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

Re: Network New Hampshire Now (#4248)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

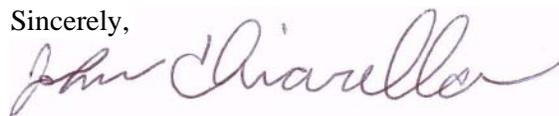
On behalf of the Town of Springfield, we wish to express our support for the statewide broadband proposal titled Network New Hampshire Now (#4248) submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Our town 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.

Springfield is a small rural community in central New Hampshire with a population of 1139. Springfield has become the fastest growing community in the state due to our location, access to Interstate 89, and small town atmosphere, which has attracted professionals whom are employed in Hanover, Lebanon, and Concord. We are home to the largest biomass energy generation plant, and the largest Pine processing facility in the state. Due to our small population and large land area, no for profit business has seen fit to bring high speed internet into more than 10 percent of our community. With a growing population that is more educated and more affluent and a growing number of small and home businesses starting in our town we are only limited by our access to high speed internet.

Please allow this letter to also serve as a notice of intent to purchase services from the NH Fastroads Network, should the network be constructed.

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

Sincerely,



John Chiarella, Chairman
For Springfield Board of Selectmen