



JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

State of New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone (603) 271-2121
www.nh.gov/governor
governorlynch@nh.gov

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to urge your support for the Network New Hampshire Now (NNHN) application under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This comprehensive proposal provides New Hampshire with an excellent opportunity to provide internet access and infrastructure to those most in need. The University of New Hampshire is the designated applicant for the State of New Hampshire and will serve as the entity of authority during the implementation phase.

Since 2000, New Hampshire has worked aggressively through our Telecommunications Advisory Board and key partners for increased deployment of broadband services throughout the state. The NNHN proposal builds upon the efforts of the Advisory Board and on New Hampshire's previous submittal to the BTOP program. This application has been significantly enhanced to address NTIA's seven criteria for success. The core of the application is based upon private and public partnerships, as well as defined pathways for sustainability. This proposal has four key components, each of which is critical to the expansion of broadband in New Hampshire – Middle Mile, Last Mile, Public Safety and a state telecom director.

1) Middle Mile Fiber Pathway – NNHN would create an open-access, middle-mile fiber optic network that would connect community anchor institutions; offer next-generation, high-capacity, high-availability broadband services; and extend the reach of broadband to the rural unserved and underserved communities in New Hampshire, from the mountainous Southwest, northeast to the Upper Valley region, east to the Lakes Region, and deep into the North Country. The core anchor institutions include our University and Community College System locations, state agencies, libraries and many hospitals.

2) Last Mile Deployment – Reaching the unserved and underserved areas of the State is an identified priority for stimulus funding. The NNHN partnership includes a municipality-driven coalition called FastRoads. The coalition brings a sustainable funding business model designed to provide open-access, open-service last mile build-out for commercial providers without the heavy investment of capital funds. Additionally, FastRoads will work with the NH Community Development Finance Authority to manage a revolving loan/equity fund. The earnings of the fund will finance technical assistance and seed capital to replicate the last mile model in other regions of the state until broadband access exists statewide.

3) Public Safety/Wireless Microwave – The public safety component of the proposal is critical to the continued development of New Hampshire’s emergency communication system. Our state prides itself on its ability to mobilize during unforeseen emergencies. In this day and age our ability to respond to emergencies should not be limited by the extent to which we can transmit data. Building the wireless microwave system will create an infrastructure for communications that will allow state agencies to share data more efficiently and effectively.

4) Telecom Director Position – The NNHN proposal includes funding for the State’s Broadband Director position. The State Legislature created this position in 2009 to specifically work on BTOP/BIP related projects and to engage public and private stakeholders in the broadband debate. This position will lead our efforts to expand access to broadband.

My office supported the creation of a single statewide BTOP application based upon solid partnerships. Participants in this process have come to the table tirelessly, and I believe that the dedication at this level is an indicator of success at the next. The aforementioned projects are in keeping with the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but more importantly, the projects are interrelated and supportive of one another. Together they illustrate a broader picture of New Hampshire’s vision of technology deployment and our belief that access is a critical driver of better education, improved health care, and statewide economic development.

I hope you will share my support of the Network New Hampshire Now application and that you will consider this proposal as a wise step toward making the vision a reality.

Sincerely,



John H. Lynch
Governor