

## PROJECT PLAN

- Use the following table to list the major network build-out phases and milestones that can demonstrate that your entire project will be substantially complete by the end of Year 2 and fully complete by the end of Year 3. This is to be done at the aggregate level (combining all proposed funded service areas.)
- Indicated how the milestones listed below will demonstrate these completion objectives. The applicant should consider such project areas as: a) network design; b) securing all relevant licenses and agreements; c) site preparation; d) inside plant deployment; e) outside plan deployment; f) deployment of business & operational support systems; g) network testing; f) network operational. The applicant may provide any other milestones that it believes showcase progress.
- Project inception (Year 0) starts at the date when the applicant receives notice that the project has been approved for funding.
- In the table, provide any information (e.g., facts, analysis) to: a) demonstrate the reasonableness of these milestones; b) substantiate the ability to reach the milestones by the quarters indicated.

Time Period	Quarter	Milestones	Support for Reasonableness/Data Points
Year 0	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Route Priorities Defined based on Order Conversion Confidence level</li> <li>• Formalize Route Construction Contract</li> <li>• Route-Engineering Review</li> <li>• Formalize Engineering Change Order Process</li> <li>• Preliminary Greenfield POP Site Selection</li> <li>• Greenfield POP Bill of Materials Finalized</li> <li>• Broadband Service Provider (BSP Firm Commitments on Wave Upgrade)</li> <li>• Year 1 Community Anchor Institution (CAIs) Firm Order Commitments</li> <li>• BSP and IFN Legacy POP Site Readiness for DWDM Upgrade</li> <li>• BSP and IFN Legacy POP Site Readiness for 10G Ethernet Switch Upgrade</li> <li>• NISC iVUE Engineering and Operation Module Quote-Lead Time Finalized</li> <li>• Network-to-Network Interface Engineering planning with OARNet, negotiated agreement on final route IRUs with O&amp;M</li> <li>• Network-to-Network Interface Engineering planning with ZAYO, negotiated agreement on formal route commitments with O&amp;M</li> <li>• BSP Selection Finalized for Last Mile Service to Year 1 CAIs with Preliminary Plans for Years 2 and 3</li> <li>• Customer-Plant Records - Engineering &amp; Operation Module Ordered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project consists of Major and Minor Route Segments. Priority focused around major items</li> <li>• Project will be managed as 4 Separate Construction Projects</li> <li>• Fiber Optic Cable Manufacture to sign on to a performance guarantee technical and delivery schedule</li> <li>• Agreed to Process between all parties involved on routes</li> <li>• Initial Site Selection for property acquisition</li> <li>• Conditional Binding Letter of Intent based on award</li> <li>• Conditional Purchase Orders based on award</li> <li>• Engineering Walk through on Space and Power Confirmation</li> <li>• Power and Space Walk through Review</li> <li>• Software install only should minimize lead time, however need to pursue early based on vendors lead time history</li> <li>• Need to finalize plans early at sites not dependent on construction to close on Year 1 CAI projections</li> <li>• Prioritize based on post-application follow-up items resulting in business opportunities</li> <li>• BSP Commitment to build and Serve</li> <li>• NISC iVUE module Purchase Order Released</li> </ul>

Year 1	Qtr. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitively Bid POP Site Construction and Bill of Materials for Turnkey Vendor Selection</li> <li>CNI Service Codes and Rate Tables loaded in Billing System</li> <li>CNI Database Configured for Plant-Trouble</li> <li>Month 1: Project Setup initial 2 weeks, strategic planning with route team, specifications, route evaluation</li> <li>Month 2: Route Evaluations Complete ahead of Engineering - 1% Completed</li> <li>Month 3: 5% Engineering Miles Complete</li> <li>Permitting and Make Ready Issues Identified</li> <li>DWDM Upgrade of Legacy Network POP Purchase Order details by site</li> <li>CISCO 76XX Series Switch for Legacy POP Installs &amp; Upgrades PO by Site</li> <li>Last Mile Service Orders Prepared and Released to BSPs on Year 1 CAIs with Desired Due Dates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize Turnkey approach with single General Contractor for Greenfield POP sites</li> <li>Billing Preparation for CAI In-Service Activations</li> <li>Plant Asset tracking as deployment progresses</li> <li>Permits are expected to trickle in and allow construction to start. Will need to build around any delayed railroad permits. This will be important to remember when working to meet deadlines</li> <li>Punch list created on Permit and Make Ready delay areas for construction teams</li> <li>Advanced preparation of all Pos for sequenced release</li> <li>Advanced preparation of all Pos for sequenced release</li> <li>Deployment plan to ensure minimum build sites are activated in service at earliest possible date for maximum Year 1 revenue potential</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19% Engineering Completed</li> <li>5% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>10% Deployment Complete of CISCO and DWDM Equipment on Legacy Network</li> <li>Year 1 POP Site Acquisitions Completed</li> <li>GIS Mapping and Plant Engineering &amp; Operation Software Installed and Staff Training completed</li> <li>Year 1 CAI Activations 25% Complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly Material Shipment Stabilizes</li> <li>100% of Major Construction Issues identified including river crossing and Private Railroad Crossings</li> <li>Initial POP Equipment Received, Configured and Installed</li> <li>Easement Acquisition expected to occur at conclusion of Farming Season in Fall-Winter 2010-2011</li> <li>No Conversion- Software module installation only will result in short lead time from NISC for this application</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33% Engineering Miles Complete</li> <li>19% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>60% Deployment Complete of CISCO and DWDM Equipment on Legacy Network</li> <li>Site Preparation on YR1 Greenfield POP Sites</li> <li>GIS Mapping and Plant Engineering &amp; Operation Software Installed and Staff Training completed</li> <li>Agreement for new Collocation Space Negotiated and Executed</li> <li>Year 2 Greenfield POP Sites Acquired</li> <li>Year 1 CAI Activations 70% Complete</li> <li>Year 2 CAI Planned Customers Firm Order Commitments Secured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up on lagging permits initiated</li> <li>First Sections are being spliced and terminated</li> <li>Year 1 Equipment Fully Received. Configuration and Installation continues</li> <li>General Contractor permits received on acquired sites</li> <li>No Conversion- Software module installation only will result in short lead time from NISC for this application</li> <li>Dayton, West Milton, Walnut Grove and Delaware Collocation Space arrangements full in place</li> <li>Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> <li>Sales-Project Management pursuing advanced sales commitments for advanced planning with BSPs</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48% Engineering Complete</li> <li>34% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>70% Deployment Complete of CISCO and DWDM Equipment on Legacy Network</li> <li>YR1 Greenville POP Site Equipped and Lima Legacy POP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued follow-up on lagging permits</li> <li>Coordination underway with route teams on lighting completed sections</li> <li>Initial Greenville POP equipped less electronics - Lima Legacy POP Confirmed Upgrade Complete</li> </ul>

		<p>Equipped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS Mapping and Plant Engineering &amp; Operation Software Installed and Staff Training completed</li> <li>• Year 1 CAI Activations 100% Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 CAI Last Mile BSP Selection Finalized</li> <li>• Year 2 New Collocation and Greenfield POP Equipment Purchase Order prepared for release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Records and GIS mapping Clerk working to update records on completed construction</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> <li>• Procurement staging Purchase Orders based on lead time and expected POP readiness dates</li> </ul>
Year 2	Qtr. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62% Engineering Complete</li> <li>• 48% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Deployment and turn-up of CISCO and DWDM Equipment at Greenville POP Complete</li> <li>• 100% Deployment Complete of CISCO and DWDM Equipment on Legacy Network and activation of Network Management System</li> <li>• Year 2 CAI Activations 35% Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 Greenfield POP Site Preparation</li> <li>• Year 1 Huntsville Greenfield Site being Prepared for Release to Operations</li> <li>• Huntsville, West Milton Collocation and Dayton Collocation Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued follow-up on lagging permits</li> <li>• 90% of Materials should be received and stocked in yards at this point</li> <li>• DWDM equipment installed across legacy network and Network Management System configured and placed into operation in the NOC</li> <li>• Catch up on Mapping and Plant Records completed with S.O.P.s established for on-going routine ops</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% Engineering Complete</li> <li>• 62% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Deployment and turn-up of CISCO and DWDM Equipment at Greenville POP Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 CAI Activations 60% Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 POP Site Construction</li> <li>• Huntsville, West Milton Collocation and Dayton Collocation Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued follow-up on lagging permits</li> <li>• Segments are being finalized and completed as lagging permits secured and gap work completed</li> <li>• Activated as Node between Wabash and NK BSPs for servicing CAIs in Greenville with protected or unprotected services as ordered</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% Engineering Complete</li> <li>• 76% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Deployment and turn-up of CISCO and DWDM Equipment at Greenville POP Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 CAI Activations 90% Complete</li> <li>• Year 3 CAI Fiber Order Commitments</li> <li>• Wood County Equipment Installation &amp; Activation along with Findlay Collocation and Toledo Collocation Upgrade Confirmed</li> <li>• Oakshade Site Preparation</li> <li>• Payne Site Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firm Permits in place on all routes</li> <li>• Major Segments Fully Operational and released to projection</li> <li>• Activated as Node between Wabash and NK BSPs for servicing CAIs in Greenville with protected or unprotected services as ordered</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>

	Qtr. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Engineering Complete</li> <li>• 90% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Deployment and turn-up of CISCO and DWDM Equipment at Greenville POP Complete</li> <li>• Year 2 CAI Activations 100% Complete</li> <li>• Wood County Equipment Installation &amp; Activation, Findlay Collocation and Toledo Collocation confirmed</li> <li>• Year 3 CAI Serving BSP Selection Finalized</li> <li>• Payne POP Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> <li>• Tiffin POP Site Preparation</li> <li>• Oakshade POP Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firm Permits in place on all routes</li> <li>• Segments Fully Operational and released to projection</li> </ul>
Year 3	Qtr. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Year 3 CAI Activations 35% Complete</li> <li>• Oakshade Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> <li>• Springfield &amp; Marion County Site Preparation</li> <li>• Tiffin POP Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Testing and Splicing being Completed with Remaining Hut Entrance Facilities Pending</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Construction Route Miles Complete</li> <li>• Final Transfer of facilities to Zayo on Perpetual Right of Use and Fiber IRUs to OARnet on selected routes</li> <li>• Deployment and turn-up of CISCO and DWDM Equipment at Greenville POP Complete</li> <li>• Year 3 CAI Activations 70% Complete</li> <li>• Tiffin Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> <li>• Springfield &amp; Marion County Site Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Testing and Splicing Completed with the exception of laterals into outstanding Greenfield POPs</li> <li>• Activated as Node between Wabash and NK BSPs for servicing CAIs in Greenville with protected or unprotected services as ordered</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiber Route Construction Project Cleanup and Documentation</li> <li>• Year 3 CAI Activations 90% Complete</li> <li>• Springfield &amp; Marion County Equipment Installation &amp; Activation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Sign-off by all Entities on Route Construction</li> <li>• Target Sites on deployed fiber routes by last mile BSP working concurrently with Middle Mile Construction teams</li> </ul>
	Qtr. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 CAI Activations 100% Complete</li> <li>• Project Documentation and Clean-up Complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign-off by all parties on project completion</li> </ul>

**BUILD-OUT TIMELINE**

Complete the following schedule for *each* Last Mile or Middle Mile Service Area to note the degree of build-out, based on: a) infrastructure funds awarded; b) entities passed (households, businesses, and community anchor institutions.). In addition, please complete a schedule that aggregates the build-out timeline across all of the Proposed Funded Service Area.

Service Area	[Fill Name]												
	YEAR 0	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
Infrastructure Funds													
Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate)	0	0	1.7M	7.8M	14.4M	20.4M	26.5M	32.6M	39.2M	41.3M	43.1M	43.5M	-
Percentage of Total Funds	0	0	4%	18%	33%	47%	61%	75%	90%	95%	99%	100%	-
Entities Passed & %													
Households	-	1972	46980	87401	182056	202475	308985	406940	553192	595394	665714	721012	737013
Percentage of Total Households	-	0%	6%	12%	25%	27%	42%	55%	75%	81%	90%	98%	100%
Businesses	-	109	2593	4841	10135	11209	17422	23134	31140	33243	36354	39342	40007
Percentage of Total Businesses	-	0%	6%	12%	25%	28%	44%	58%	78%	83%	91%	98%	100%
Community Anchor Institutions	-	73	1742	3342	6804	7526	11240	14495	19264	20703	22804	24691	25198
Percentage of Total Institutions	-	0%	7%	13%	27%	30%	45%	58%	76%	82%	90%	98%	100%

**GigEPAC Middle Mile Project for Com Net, Inc.**

**Letters of Partnership**

Subrecipients

OARnet

Zayo

Contractors

Kenneth G. Myers Construction Co. Inc.

Sigma Technologies, LTD

**Letters of Intent**

Arthur Mutal Telephone

Ayersville Telephone Company

Bright Net-Northwest Net

The Fort Jennings Telephone Company

Glandorf Telephone Company

Kalida Telephone Company

Middle Point Home Telephone Company

Ridgeville Telephone

Sycamore Telephone

Vaughnsville Telephone Company

**Letters of Support**

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland

eTech Ohio

Region #3 Regional Economic Development Director Jerry Good

Consolidated Electric Cooperative

Ohio Board of Regents

Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council  
Paulding County Department of Job and Family Services  
Union Township in Miami County  
Van Wert County Commissioners  
Board of Commissioners of Putnam County  
Henry County Commissioners  
Fulton County Commissioners  
Rhodes State College Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Northwest State Community College  
Allen County Commissioners  
The Ohio State University  
Bowling Green State University  
University of Toledo  
University of Cincinnati  
Ohio Northern University  
Cincinnati Tech Community College  
Ashland University  
University of Dayton  
Rhodes State College Office of the President  
Owens Community College  
University of Findlay  
Clark State Community College  
Wilberforce University  
Heidelberg University  
Wright State University

Art Academy of Cincinnati

Darke County Sheriff's Office

Van Wert County 9-1-1 operations

Putnam County 9-1-1

Miami County Health District

Crestview Local Schools



March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

The “Ohio Middle Mile Consortium” (OMMC) is a public-private partnership facilitated by the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, to integrate three Broadband Technology Opportunities Program-Comprehensive Community Initiatives (BTOP-CCI) projects. The OMMC will combine the three middle mile stimulus projects to form a coordinated and collaborative approach to meeting the needs of Ohio. These projects include:

As members of the OMMC Executive Committee, and principals of the OMMC partners, we are signing this “Letter of Collaboration” to express to you our commitment to work dynamically and cooperatively to support the statutory purposes of BTOP, and to work in the best interests of the State of Ohio, to implement and sustain the following BTOP-CCI projects:

- “Connecting Appalachian *Ohio Middle Mile Consortium*”(CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom, covering 34 counties of southeastern Ohio
- “GigEPAC *Ohio Middle Mile Consortium*” (GigEPAC OMMC)-led by Com Net, Inc., covering 28 counties of western Ohio
- “Transforming NE Ohio from Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse-An *Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project*”-led by OneCommunity, covering 20 counties in northeastern Ohio

OMMC represents an umbrella under which its partners cooperate, innovate and collaborate to forge the optimal broadband solutions for Ohio. OARnet will provide the administrative support for OMMC, as well as provide the statewide network to interconnect the three OMMC-related projects. OARnet is positioned as a sub-recipient in all three applications.

As OMMC partners, we have coordinated closely through the BTOP-CCI application development process to engineer complementary solutions, to ensure non-overlapping areas within the State, and to develop integrated projects to create a comprehensive middle mile network encompassing the state.

Although each of our three proposals can stand on its merits, together they provide a seamless middle mile solution for the state. Collectively, the federal funds applied for in the three proposals total less than the \$150M threshold for the BTOP-CCI category, further reinforcing the integrated design.

Governor Ted Strickland's letter of support for OMMC recognizes the three related projects as a single integrated middle mile solution for the State, and encourages consideration of projects as a whole. In his letter of support to you he wrote:

*"The Ohio Middle Mile Consortium applications have my strong support to be considered as a total package, to provide a comprehensive middle mile solution for Ohio."*

We are committed to fulfilling the Governor's vision.



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Pankaj Shah, Executive Director  
OARnet



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Timothy Berelsman, Chief Executive Officer  
Com Net, Inc.



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William A. McKell, President/Chairman/CEO  
Horizon Telcom



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Charles Berry, Chief Operating Officer  
OneCommunity



March 21, 2010

Mr. Timothy Berelsman  
President  
Com Net, Inc.  
13888 County Road 25A  
P.O. Box 2038  
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Ohio State University, on behalf of The Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the Ohio Board of Regents, is pleased to team with Com Net, Inc. in their "GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" project. The GigEPAC application is being submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Operations Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure category. Participation in this project at The Ohio State University will be led by OARnet, an organization with twenty three years of experience in managing and operating the higher education community's broadband network.

The understanding between Com Net and OARnet related to GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium is based on the following:

Com Net will provide to OARnet an Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) for dark fiber along each of the following routes:

- Lima to Hillsdale
- Lima to Findlay

Annual fiber maintenance associated with the above routes: \$42,600.00

OARnet will provide to GigEPAC an Indefeasible Right to Use for 10 Gigabit wave service from:

- Lima to Columbus

Total OARnet Project Costs: \$4,263,437.48

Total Match Dynamics originating from OARnet:

- Cash: \$869,968.92

- In-Kind: \$1,363,541.08
- Total Match: \$2,233,510.00

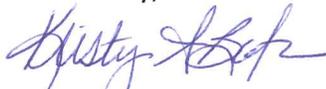
OARnet Request from Grant: \$2,029,927.48

It is understood by both parties that the development of the detailed agreement associated with delivery of these services is contingent upon associated BTOP award. OARnet understands that Com Net will administer sub-recipient funds according to procedures consistent with the BTOP Program.

We are pleased to participate in this exciting and innovative project and look forward to an effective and advantageous collaboration.

We are pleased to participate in this exciting and innovative project and look forward to an effective and advantageous collaboration.

Yours truly,



Kristy A. Baker

Director

Office for Business & Industry Contracts

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to outline the principal terms upon which Com Net, Inc. ("Com Net") and Zayo Bandwidth, LLC ("Zayo"), an interstate network operator and proposed GigE/PAC BTOP Sub-Recipient ("Sub-Recipient"), will agree to work together to plan, develop, construct and provision certain middle mile route components ("Proposed Transaction") (Com Net and Zayo shall be referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties"). The Proposed Transaction is subject to, among other things, Com Net's receipt of BTOP grant funds, the Parties' completion of due diligence, and the Parties' negotiation and execution of a definitive agreement ("Definitive Agreement") pursuant to which Zayo will, contingent upon Com Net receiving the NTIA award described above, contribute to the construction of the middle mile fiber network described herein and provide applicable operation and maintenance services on such network.

This MoU is not intended to be legally binding on either Party with the exception of Sections 4-11 below which shall remain binding and enforceable (the "Continuing Provisions"), but instead constitutes the basis for completion of due diligence and negotiations concerning the Proposed Transaction. Any legal obligations of the Parties with respect to the Proposed Transaction, or any other matters referred to in this MoU, other than the Continuing Provisions identified above, shall be established only by the Definitive Agreement, when and if negotiated and executed by the Parties.

### **§1. Project.**

On or before March 26, 2010, Com Net and its Sub-Recipient shall use their best efforts to prepare and submit a proposal under round two (2) of the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program issued on January 22, 2010 ("BTOP") ("Proposal"). The Proposal will request grant monies to construct a middle mile infrastructure in the State of Ohio as described below. If the Proposal is awarded, Zayo will be responsible for its share of a thirty percent (30%) cash match requirement not to exceed Three Million One Hundred Eleven Thousand One Hundred Fifty One Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3,111,151.50). Zayo's cash match shall be applied to various components of the Proposed Transaction, including the purchase of certain electronic equipment, the collocation space it will contribute, and the construction and ongoing operations and maintenance for the middle mile route segments set forth below in subsections a) through f) (the "Proposed Network"). In addition, the Proposed Transaction will consist of the key terms set forth in subsections g) and h) below:

- a) Columbus-to-Dayton fiber route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;
- b) Dayton-to-Lima fiber route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;
- c) Dayton-to-Richmond, Indiana fiber route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;
- d) Lima-to-Perrysburg Fiber Route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;
- e) Perrysburg to Hillsdale, Michigan fiber route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;

- f) Perrysburg to Toledo, fiber route, certain points-of-presence, equipment and on-going operation and maintenance costs;
- g) Other uses that Zayo may identify by its own means as beneficial to its network, services and/or business; and
- h) Fiber Route Operating and Maintenance Costs for the Proposed Network of Nine Dollars (\$9) per Sheath Route Mile, Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars (\$8425) Annual Route Inspection, Seventy Five Dollars (\$75) for each locate event, and a pro-rata annual assessment for relocation activities on the Proposed Network;

## **§2. Project Development.**

If the Proposal is successful and Com Net as the lead applicant is awarded grant funds, the Parties shall use their best good faith efforts to negotiate a Definitive Agreement for the Proposed Transaction containing the terms set forth in this MoU, along with other customary terms, conditions, representations, warranties and covenants, and indemnification as are appropriate or necessary in a transaction of this type. The Definitive Agreement shall be for a term of five (5) years, provided, however, the Parties shall have the ability to mutually agree to extend the term of the Definitive Agreement for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years.

The parties acknowledge that additional GigEPAC Participants ("Other Participants") have also agreed or may agree in the future to use the middle mile components developed under the Definitive Agreement, pursuant to a separate agreement. The Parties shall use their best good faith efforts to cooperate with one another and all Other Participants in the development and implementation of the middle mile components. A listing of GigEPAC Participants shall be maintained by Com Net and published from time-to-time in a format as set forth in Exhibit A of this MoU.

## **§3. Due Diligence; Timing.**

Upon submission of the Proposal, the Parties shall act in good faith to complete their due diligence and immediately commence negotiation of a Definitive Agreement.

## **§4. Expenses.**

Each Party shall bear its own expenses, including legal, accounting and financial advisory fees and expenses, related to the Proposed Transaction. Com Net shall pay any costs associated with the submission of the Proposal, provided, however, in the event travel is required in connection with review of the Proposal, each Party shall bear its own travel expenses and related costs.

## **§5. Confidentiality.**

Each Party agrees that the Proposed Transaction and the contemplated terms thereof are highly confidential. Both Parties have entered into a Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement dated February 25, 2010, which shall remain in full force and effect at all times prior to any consummation of the Proposed Transaction or until superseded in the Definitive Agreement. **§6. Non-Solicitation.**

- (i) Sub-Recipient acknowledges that in connection with the Potential Transaction, Com Net will disclose to Sub-Recipient the identity of certain of its existing and potential customers that are integral to the Proposal as mutually agreed in writing through Exhibit B. Sub-Recipient agrees that during the term of this MoU, Sub-Recipient shall not directly induce or attempt to induce any customer of Com Net to cease doing business (or materially reduce the amount of business done) with Com Net.
- (ii) Com Net acknowledges that in connection with the Potential Transaction, Sub-Recipient will disclose to Com Net the identity of certain of its existing and potential customers that are integral to the Proposal as mutually agreed in writing through Exhibit B. Com Net agrees that during the term of this MoU, Com Net shall not directly induce or attempt to induce any customer of Sub-Recipient to cease doing business (or materially reduce the amount of business done) with Sub-Recipient.

#### **§7. Good Faith; Termination.**

The Parties agree to pursue exclusive negotiations of the Definitive Agreement diligently and in good faith. This MoU shall terminate automatically upon either of the following events:

- (i) Com Net's receipt of correspondence or other documentation that definitively denies the Proposal; or
- (ii) the Parties' failure to execute a Definitive Agreement within thirty (30) days of Com Net's notice of award of funds under the BTOP.

Notwithstanding such termination, the Continuing Provisions shall remain in full force and effect after such termination.

#### **§8. Governing Law.**

This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

#### **§9. No Partnership.**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, this MoU shall not be construed as creating a partnership or joint venture between the Parties.

#### **§10. Modification.**

This MoU may not be modified, amended, added to or otherwise varied except by a document in writing signed by each the Parties.

#### **§11. Complete Agreement.**

This MoU constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes all previous understandings, agreements, communications and representations, whether written or oral, concerning the subject matter of this MoU.

**§12. Counterparts.**

This MoU may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each such counterpart hereof shall be deemed to be an original instrument, and all such counterparts together shall constitute but one agreement.

**AGREED TO BY:**

Com Net

By:  CEO  
Timothy N. Bettsman  
Date: March 25, 2010

Zayo Bandwidth, LLC (Sub-Recipient)

By:   
Chris Moeley  
Date: MARCH 25, 2010

**EXHIBIT A**

**GigE PLUS Availability Coalition (GigEPAC) Participants**

**Issue 1.0, March 14, 2010**

The following companies in the general categories have elected to participate in the Com Net led GigEPAC application through this non-binding MoU or through an informal letter of understanding.

**Sub-Recipients:**

Zayo Bandwidth, LLC  
OARnet

**Last Mile Broadband Service Providers:**

**Anchor Institutions:**

**Com Net Affiliates:**

Broadband Network Group, LLC  
Independents Fiber Network, LLC  
Tier 2 Communications, LLC

**EXHIBIT B**

**Non-Solicitation of Customers Integral to the Proposal by the Other Party's**

**Issue 1.0, March 14, 2010**

Com Net has disclosed the following customers to Sub-Recipient that it deems integral to meeting its obligations pursuant to the Proposal. Sub-Recipient acknowledges it has no existing business relationship, or has otherwise stated its relationship, with the company and hereby agrees to the Non-Solicitation terms set forth in Section 6 of this MoU.

Sub-Recipient has disclosed the following customers to Com Net that it deems integral to meeting its obligations pursuant to the Proposal. Com Net acknowledges it has no existing business relationship, or has otherwise stated its relationship, with the company and hereby agrees to the Non-Solicitation terms set forth in Section 6 of this MoU.

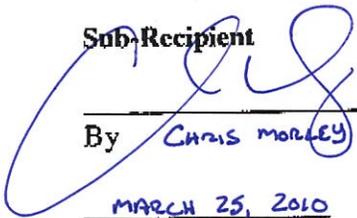
This exhibit is subject to change from time to time. For the purpose of this exhibit the parties agree that signature by electronic copy or facsimile copy shall constitute original signature for the purposes of this Exhibit. Agreed to by:

Com Net

  
By Timothy N. Betelsman, CEO

March 25, 2010  
Date

Sub-Recipient

  
By Chris Morley

MARCH 25, 2010  
Date

# Kenneth G. Myers Construction Co., Inc.

201 East Smith Street • Green Springs, Ohio 44836 • Office Telephone (419) 639-2051

All Buried And Aerial Cable Applications Telephone And Catv Construction Fiber Optic Construction

August 12, 2009

To whomever it may concern,

The Kenneth G Myers Construction Company has been associated with Comnet Inc. for many years. Comnet has proven to be a dependable provider of Telecom Services to independent telephone companies throughout Ohio.

With their headquarters located in Northwest Ohio and there existing business relationships with the independent telephone companies, Comnet Inc. is uniquely positioned to provide broadband services to these companies. Our company looks forward to installing and maintaining Comnet's new fiber project.

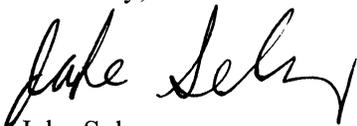
The following are some points of interest about the Kenneth G Myers Construction Company:

- Incorporated in 1958
- 24 hour a day call out center
- Completed many RUS projects
- Comprehensive Safety Program
- OSHA certified Deep Trench, Shoring competent person on every crew
- Certified drug-free workplace

I have attached some additional information about our Company also.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at my office anytime.

Sincerely,



Jake Selvey  
Superintendent

---

August 11, 2009

RE: Introductory letter of the Kenneth G. Myers Construction Co., Inc.

Kenneth G. Myers formed our Company in the early 1950's. At that time we were a pipeline company doing work for Columbia Gas of Ohio as well as doing work for then Ohio Bell Telephone Co. (previously Ameritech, now AT&T). In the mid 1960's we decided to put all our attention into the telecommunications work and we have been a part of that industry ever since.

We have placed thousands of miles of exchange and fiber toll and long line cables for many different Telco's over the years in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri.

In the past 23 years we have been active in the placement of fiber optic cables for Verizon, LCI International Corp. (now Qwest), AT&T, and several CATV Main Systems Operations throughout Ohio and Michigan.

We are a turnkey contractor in both copper and fiber outside plant construction. I have attached a list of companies that we have worked for that are REA borrowers as well as other independent and holding companies.

We do maintenance and repair work for most of the Telcos and long line companies in our area. We have a contract with AT&T in the Toledo, Ohio area that is a 24/7, 3 yr. commitment that is part of our strategic partnership contract. We are also responsible for the SPA agreement in Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and the Hillsboro, Ohio exchanges for AT&T.

Our company also has a 3 yr. Single Source Provider (SSP) contract (turnkey) with Verizon which covers about half of Northern Ohio.

All of our employees are trained in deep trench excavation, confined space entry, and railroad safety practices. Our Safety Director is a trainer for the Railroad safety training program.

Please find attached a list of key employees, along with their service time with our company and their job functions. Also a list of equipment that is applicable to outside plant construction is attached.

Thank you for taking the time to read this short resume and if you should have any questions, please call our office any time.

Sincerely,

Ron Rowe, Vice President  
RRR/scd

### EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE RECORD:

Ron Rowe	50 years	Vice-President	
John Montgomery	40 Years	Superintendent	Buried & Aerial Construction
Byron Smith	39 Years	Superintendent	Buried & Aerial Construction
Jerry Drown	37 Years	Superintendent	Buried & Aerial Construction
Jr. Lopez	37 Years	Foreman/Operator	Buried Construction
Ken Stucky	32 Years	Foreman/Operator	Buried & Aerial Construction
Joe Eubanks	32 Years	Superintendent	Buried & Aerial Construction
Rick Salazar	32 Years	Gen. Superintendent	Southern Ohio AT&T, Buried & Aerial
Rudy McGirt	32 Years	Foreman/Operator	Buried Construction
Frank Magers	30 Years	Safety Director	26 Years Aerial Construction 10 Years Fiber Fusion Splicer
Jake Selvey	30 Years	Operations Manager	
Rick Rowe	27 Years	Gen Superintendent	Toledo Area AT&T, Buried & Aerial
Jeff Wertz	25 Years	Foreman/Operator	Aerial Construction
John Campbell	24 Years	Foreman/Operator	Aerial Construction
Brent Myers	19 Years	Foreman/Operator	Buried Construction

Kenneth G. Myers Construction Company

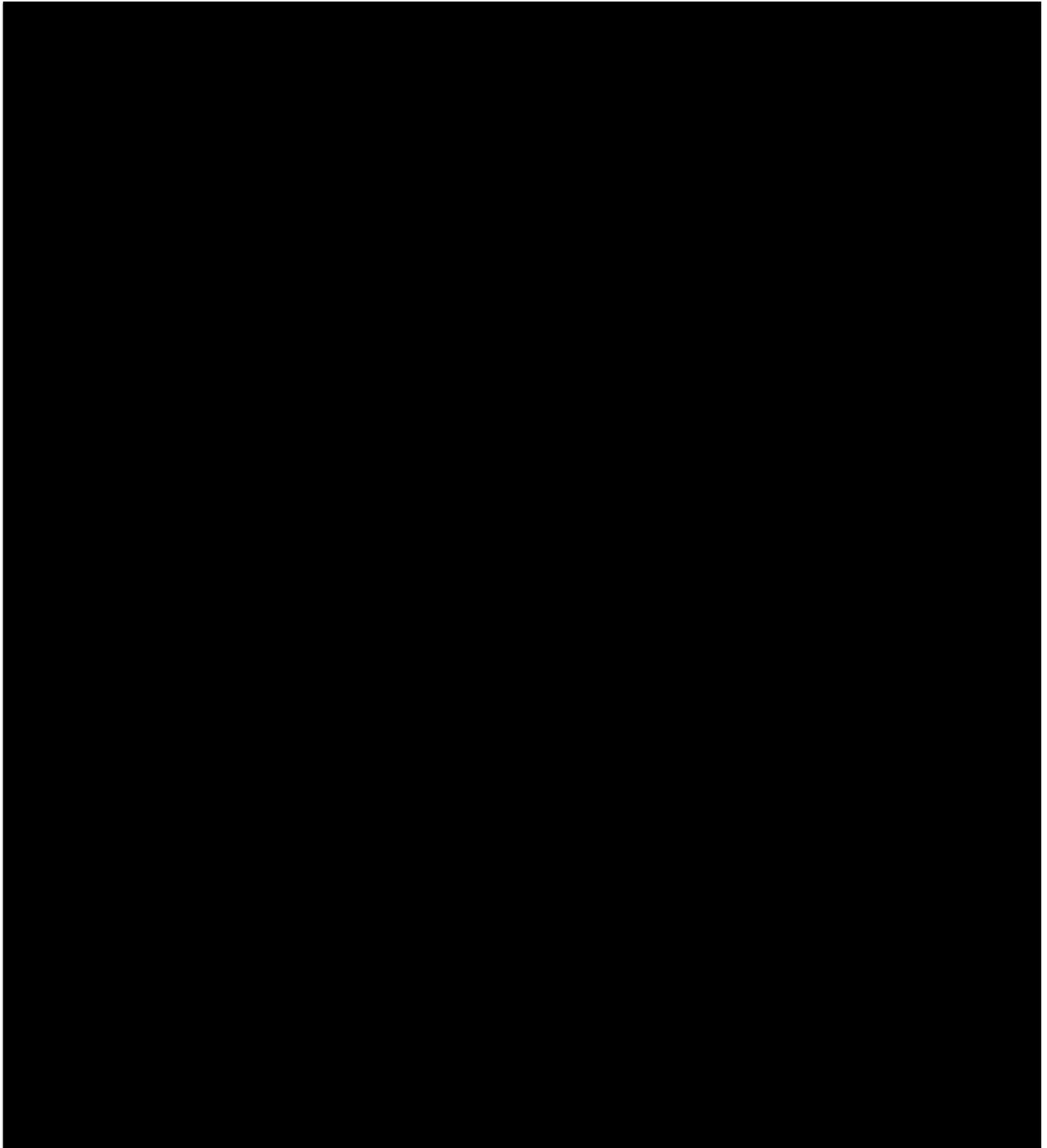
Partial Equipment List - All Equipment is owned by the Kenneth G. Myers Construction Company, Inc.

- 4 20-Ton Cable Plows on Tracks equipped for Fiber Optic Constr. W/ depths up to 60"
- 5 15-Ton to 5-Ton Cable Plows on tracks with depth of 48"
- 4 15-Ton Dozers with winch cables and blades
- 40 Ford Backhoes and Loaders with digging depths up to 22'
- 30 Trenchers and Combo Trenchers from 18 horsepower up to 220 horsepower
- 9 Drop Wire Plows up to 40 horsepower
- 10 Directional Drills for placing up to 16" pipe
- 14 Air Compressors up to 350 C.F.M.
- 8 T-40 C Telsta Bucket Trucks w/ Tools
- 1 Boom Truck w/Manitex crane-
- 6 Large Digger Trucks w/Tools
- 2 Power Rodders w/1200 Ft. of 461 rod
- 2 F-800 Ford 2-Ton w/ Myers Sewer Cleaner (Used to wash out conduit runs)
- 30 Cable Trailers
- 5 Pole Trailers
- 9 Confined Space Entry Equipment
- 5 Endagain (figure-8 Machine) as well as Arnco Assist Wheels and other fiber optic pulling equipment
- 3 Arnco Fiber Jet Tracks
- 150+ Trucks and Trailers (most crew trucks are radio & cell phone equipped)  
Core Boring Equipment  
Pipe Bending Equipment  
Cable Splicing Trucks w/Tools

**PARTIAL LIST OF COMPANIES  
WORKED FOR -PAST & PRESENT**

**LOCATION OF WORK**

**COMPANY OFFICIAL**





**SIGMA TECHNOLOGIES, LTD.**  
27421 Holiday Lane  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551  
419-874-9262  
[www.teamsigma.com](http://www.teamsigma.com)

Mr. Tim Berelsman  
Com Net, Inc.  
PO Box 2038  
1388 Co. Road 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Mr. Berelsman,

Sigma Technologies, Ltd. is an enthusiastic partner in the Com Net, Inc. Gig E Plus Availability Coalition (Gig EPAC) project.

Sigma's role in the project will involve collaboration on the engineering services involved in designing, building and implementing the infrastructure required for the Gig EPAC project.

Headquartered in Northwest Ohio, Sigma's past record of building collaborative partnerships, knowledge of the area's geography and demographics, and demonstration of professional dependability and integrity mirrors the emphasis which Com Net's project has placed on using regional expertise to help foster pride and advancement in our region.

Attached is additional information outlining the scope of work which Sigma Technologies, Ltd. has and will undertake in the development and execution of this project.

We are confident in the success and civic benefit in which the Gig EPAC project will result.

Sincerely,

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

Ryan J. Hetrick  
President  
Sigma Technologies, Ltd.



Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Arthur Mutual Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our organization as the carrier of last resort serving rural areas of Defiance, Paulding and Putnam.

This project will greatly compliment the Arthur Mutual Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organization in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organization they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our area and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, Arthur Mutual and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric W. Roughton'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eric W. Roughton  
General Manager

# Ayersville

TELEPHONE COMPANY

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

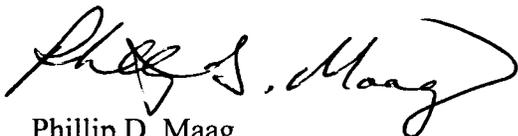
The Ayersville Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our organization as the carrier of last resort serving Ayersville, Ohio.

This project will greatly compliment the Ayersville Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organization in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organization they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our area and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, Ayersville Telephone Company and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,



Phillip D. Maag  
Secretary/Treasurer & G.M.

*Affiliated with Bright Long Distance and bright.net*

27932 Watson Road

Defiance, Ohio 43512-8850

419-395-2222

Fax 419-395-2585

August 12, 2009

Com Net, Inc.  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

North West Net, Inc. enthusiastically supports Com Net, Inc.'s Middle Mile project. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the ability to provide broadband services to the underserved and unserved areas of Putnam and Van Wert counties. This project will also enable cost effective connectivity to Metro Ohio.

We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net. We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A Pohlman  
Manager

# *The Fort Jennings Telephone Company*

*65 West Third Street*

*PO Box 146*

*Fort Jennings, Ohio 45844*

*Ph 419-286-2181*

August 12, 2009

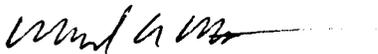
Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Fort Jennings Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the community of Fort Jennings and the surrounding area. This project will improve connectivity to our local schools and 911 centers as well as enable cost effective connectivity to Metro Ohio.

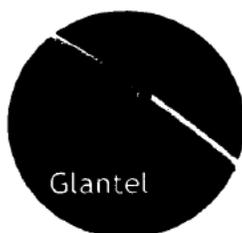
We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner and look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Metzger

General Manager



# Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.

**Your Communications Link to the World**

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

August 11, 2009

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Glandorf Telephone Co., Inc. is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the community of Glandorf and all of Putnam County. This project will help improve the connectivity to the E-911/PSAP Centers, the Ambulatory Care Center and St. Rita's Medical Center, connect our local schools with NOACSC.

I believe these projects would be very beneficial to better serve and help educate the citizens of our community and the entire County. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,

Linda Heckman

Manager

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135 S. Main St. P. O. Box 31 Glandorf, Ohio 45848

Phone: 419-538-6987 - Fax: 419-538-7115

Mobile: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [glantel@bright.net](mailto:glantel@bright.net)

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# KALIDA TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

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121 E. Main Street ♦ Box 267 ♦ Kalida, Ohio 45853  
Phone 419-532-3218 ♦ Fax 419-532-3300 ♦ Email [ktc@kalidatel.com](mailto:ktc@kalidatel.com)

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

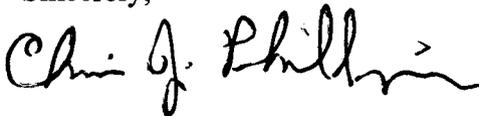
The Kalida Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our organization as the carrier of last resort serving Kalida.

This project will greatly compliment the Kalida Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organization in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organization they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our area and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, Kalida Telephone Company and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,



Chris J. Phillips  
General Manager

**THE MIDDLE POINT HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 41  
MIDDLE POINT, OH 45863-0041  
PH# 419-968-2000  
FAX# 419-968-2701  
E-MAIL [mphtelco@bright.net](mailto:mphtelco@bright.net)**

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Middle Point Home Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our organization as the carrier of last resort serving Van Wert County, Ohio.

This project will greatly compliment The Middle Point Home Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organizations in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organizations they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our area and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, The Middle Point Home Telephone Company and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,



Joy Thomas

Office Manager/Assistant Vice-President



*"Traditional Service Values – Futuristic Services"*

5732 County Road 20B, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio 43555

Phone 419-267-5185 • Fax 419-267-9919 • [www.ridgevilletelephone.com](http://www.ridgevilletelephone.com)

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Ridgeville Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the ability of our local Public Safety, Health Care providers and others to acquire Metro like services in our Rural Communities.

This project will greatly compliment the Ridgeville Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organization in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organization they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our community and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, Ridgeville Corners and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Miller, mgr.", written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Miller, Mgr.  
Ridgeville Telephone Company  
Ridgeville Corners, Ohio



# SYCAMORE TELEPHONE COMPANY

104 E. 7th STREET  
SYCAMORE, OHIO 44882-9409

PHONE 419-927-6012  
FAX 419-927-2990  
E-MAIL [stc@bright.net](mailto:stc@bright.net)

March 24, 2010

Mr. Timothy N. Berelsman  
Com Net, Inc.  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Sycamore Telephone Company (STC) is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe that STC's involvement in the GigEPAC OMMC project will be beneficial for both parties, which is why we have agreed to cross reference our application (Easy Grant ID: 6393, Titled: Sycamore FTTH) with the application of Com Net (Easy Grant ID: 7296, Titled: GigE Plus Availability Coalition).

Com Net and STC are both preparing to submit applications for stimulus funds: Com Net for a Middle Mile Project and Sycamore for a Last Mile Project. As a result, both companies have been involved in discussions involving the mutually beneficial exchange of fiber facilities on common routes included in our respective applications as follows:

- a. Joint construction of a route from the northwest side of Upper Sandusky, northeast through Sycamore and on through to the edge of its Melmore exchange.
- b. Com Net would require a limited number (24) of fibers across this approximately 16.5-mile route for facilitating connectivity for One Community from Tiffin, OH to a mid-span meet near the Marion-Wyandot county line south of Marseilles, OH.
- c. STC would require a limited number (2) of fibers from Com Net from the point-of meet on the northwest side of Upper Sandusky to Com Net's Walnut Grove point-of-presence, just north of Kenton, OH.

The Com Net Middle Mile Network will make it feasible for STC to offer video services in a reliable fashion through a Video Signal Acquisition Agreement with Com Net. The project will provide a cost effective solution by leveraging existing assets of STC, other last-mile broadband service providers in rural western Ohio, and those of Com Net's wholly-owned subsidiary, Independents Fiber Network, LLC. We believe that this innovative opportunity will produce a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Ekleberry  
General Manager & Treasurer



# VAUGHNSVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

BOX 127 • VAUGHNSVILLE, OHIO 45893-0127 • 419-646-3431

Com Net. Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta. OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Vaughnsville Telephone Company is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our organization as the carrier of last resort serving Vaughnsville.

This project will greatly compliment the *Vaughnsville* Telephone Company's Last Mile Network and Fiber to the Premises initiatives. This will be realized by providing extended reach of high capacity, private line metro Ethernet service offering to connect businesses and organization in our community to other like-minded Ohio Communities and organization they wish to partner and collaborate with.

Through our existing partnership with Com Net we have already proven that metro Ethernet connectivity provides us with a more scalable and cost effective solution for powering our Broadband Internet Access Services. I therefore agree that Com Net's Middle Mile project will allow us to more effectively deliver broadband services to community critical facilities in our area and allow them to network and collaborate with their peers throughout Ohio and potentially neighboring states. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner by leveraging existing assets of Com Net, *Vaughnsville Telephone Company* and Com Net's other Middle Mile Network partners.

Sincerely,

Rex Welch  
Plant Manager



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and Administrator, National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) proposals to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) of the NTIA. The OMMC is a public-private partnership spearheaded by The Ohio Academic Resource Network (OARnet), the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio.

OARnet was established in 1987 by the Ohio Board of Regents to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions and their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

OARnet was charged by Ohio's higher education Chancellor, Eric Fingerhut, to integrate three BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) proposals into an overall Middle Mile Plan for Ohio. These proposals include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC) - led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC (GigE PLUS Availability Coalition) Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (GigEPAC-OMMC) -led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project (TNEO-OMMC) - led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC creates an umbrella which provides an unprecedented level of cooperation, innovation and collaboration to forge optimal broadband solutions for Ohio. Together, the three applications create a hand-in-glove, comprehensive, statewide network and provide backbone for a public-private partnership as envisioned in the statutory purposes of the BTOP.

The OMMC will be hosted at OARnet and will be managed by an executive committee including the principals of each of the lead applicants and the executive director of OARnet. A technical advisory committee will reinforce compatible network operations and policies. This structure will assure that the model is sustainable and that collaboration is consistent throughout the term of the anticipated awards.

Although each of the three proposals can stand on their own merits, they fit together to provide a seamless middle mile solution for the state. The Connecting Appalachian project provides critical infrastructure to the most economically disadvantaged region of Ohio. Collectively, the federal funds applied for in the three proposals totals less than the \$150M ceiling for the BTOP-CCI category, further reinforcing the integrated design.

Furthermore, I have previously identified these priorities for the State of Ohio:

- Job creation
- Investing in Ohio's workforce
- Advanced energy
- Improving Ohio's business climate
- Education
- Health care
- Strengthening Ohio's cities
- Improving rural Ohio

The OMMC provides infrastructure that supports each of these priorities. The projects will expand middle mile connection to 54 counties that, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent a total of 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

The BTOP program will be most successful in rewarding applications like the OMMC which have a cooperative approach and a strong spirit of collaboration. The Ohio Middle Mile Consortium applications have my strong support to be considered as a total package, to provide a comprehensive middle mile solution for Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Strickland".

Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio



March 17, 2010

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The eTech Ohio Commission is in support of Com Net's GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project, and is excited about the many opportunities this could bring to the learners, educators, and citizens in Western Ohio.

Broadband connectivity is becoming increasingly more critical to the economic and educational well-being of everyone, and initiatives like this will help to ensure that Ohioans gain increased access to high-speed, broadband connectivity.

eTech Ohio provides statewide distance learning services and support to Ohio's K-12, and Higher Education networks, as well as to a number of state agencies. In addition, eTech Ohio provides the connectivity to Ohio's public broadcasting network, including public television and radio. The expansion of Com Net's broadband network will further enhance eTech Ohio's ability to deliver these valuable services in a seamless, more comprehensive manner, resulting in a more connected, and educated community.

We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net, and believe this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen T. Harkin".

Kathleen T. Harkin  
Executive Director  
eTech Ohio



Department of  
Development

Ted Strickland, Governor

Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director

Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor

Ohio Department of Development

March 23, 2010

Com Net, Inc.  
Timothy N. Berelsman  
P.O. Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman,

I am writing in support of Com Net and the GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe the Middle Mile project for western Ohio will greatly enhance our regions broadband access and provide the following benefits;

- Offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions such as higher education, K-12, health care, and libraries.
- Provide for greater collaboration between public-private partnerships among government, non-profit and for-profit entities and other key community stakeholders.
- Bolster growth in economically distressed areas hard hit by the national economic recession in an area composed of a large number of auto manufacturers.
- Enhance broadband services to community colleges which are critical in providing the necessary high skilled workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Allow for the broadband infrastructure needed by county, regional, and statewide public safety entities, which lack the necessary funding, in building a strong interagency network.
- Enhance medical care by allowing critical patient information to flow faster between early responders, doctors, and hospitals.

As you are keenly aware, successful funding through the *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program* will greatly enhance Governor Strickland's **Connect Ohio** initiative and provide for the critical Last Mile infrastructure component in unserved or underserved areas of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Good  
Regional Economic Development Director  
Region 3, West Central Ohio

March 25, 2010

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Avetec is an enthusiastic supporter of the Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe our organization's involvement in the GigEPAC OMMC project will be beneficial for both parties, which is why we have agreed to Cross Reference our applications;

Grant ID:6640 Titled: Southwest Ohio Comprehensive Fiber Ring with the application of Com Net  
Grant ID:7296 Titled: GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project.

Through this collaboration both project teams will be able to avoid building redundant fiber segments and expand services into a broader areas.

Com Net and Avetec have both prepared an application for stimulus funds. As a result both companies have been involved in discussion on the mutually beneficial exchange of fiber facilities in manner that will expand coverage for both parties' applications while providing for cost avoidance as follows:

- a. Avetec has expressed interest in fiber extending north along the I-75 corridor from Dayton to Piqua and then northeast from Piqua to Bellefontaine, OH and then south again through Urbana, OH to Springfield, Xenia and then back northwest to Dayton.
- b. Com Net has long-term interest in Middle Mile Fiber Facilities to Xenia, OH and has expressed interest in a mutually beneficial collaborative effort with Avetec.
- c. The parties have entertained preliminary discussion whereby Avetec would provide a route south from Springfield to Xenia and back to Dayton and whereby Com Net would provide a route from Dayton to Troy.
- d. The parties would work together to engineer and reach Piqua, Sidney, Bellefontaine, Urbana and back to Springfield.

I agree that this middle mile network will greatly enhance connectivity between Northwestern and Southwestern Ohio's rural communities and its metropolitan hubs in Toledo, Lima, Dayton and Cincinnati. Our studies show that the six counties of Miami, Shelby, Logan, Champaign, Green and Clark are extremely underserved and needs projects like this to advance economic development and services for the citizens. We believe this can be done by leveraging the assets in place between the parties and working to together to ensure common fiber builds. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

Sincerely,



Alvin (Al) E. Stutz  
Chief Information Officer  
astutz@avetec.org



# Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Corporate Office:**  
5255 St. Rt. 95  
P. O. Box 111  
Mount Gilead OH 43338-0111  
Ph: (419) 947-3055

**District Office:**  
4993 State Route 521  
Delaware OH 43015  
Ph: (740) 363-2641

Web Site: [www.consolidatedelectric.coop](http://www.consolidatedelectric.coop) E-mail: [service@consolidatedelectric.coop](mailto:service@consolidatedelectric.coop) Phone: (800) 421-5863 Fax: (419) 947-3082

---

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to endorse the GigE Plus Availability Coalition (GigEPAC) and Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project fiber-optic network project proposed by Com Net, Incorporated as presented in their application for broadband stimulus funds. Consolidated Electric Cooperative, recipient of an award in Round 1, is a member-owned electric cooperative headquartered in Mount Gilead Ohio that operates an electric distribution utility. We intend on further promoting Com Net’s network as part of a larger Smart Grid communications strategy for electric cooperatives in Ohio.

Consolidated Electric Cooperative detailed a general lack of affordable Metro-Ethernet services and broadband penetration in its Round 1 application. We saw the need bridge severe and costly interlata connectivity issues in our service area with a dependable middle mile transport option. The network and route proposed by Com Net would remedy connectivity and cost issues regionally, further providing telecommunications options beyond Consolidated Electric Cooperative’s network. Should Com Net be successful in their request for stimulus funds and build the network as specified, it would be the intention of Consolidated Electric Cooperative to purchase wholesale access to the network on behalf of its tenants and/or negotiate lease agreements that benefit both parties.

In addition to this Com Net’s proposed Point-of-Interconnect is at Consolidated Electric Cooperative’s substation on Section Line Road on the east side of Delaware, Ohio. This site is shovel ready with the majority of duct already installed to allow Com Net to install diverse laterals from its long haul route in and out of Consolidated’s substation. The parties have been in discussion for a number of years about establishing such connectivity. If it were not for the availability of the BTOP Grant, this connection would remain in a proposed state with no definitive date on when it would be financially feasible to realize.

Consolidated Electric Cooperative recommends that the project as submitted be funded by Broadband Stimulus funds so this network can be built for the long-term economic development of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Doug Payauys  
VP of Information Systems / CIO, Consolidated Electric Cooperative

---

Consolidated  
Electric’s family of  
companies:





## Board of Regents

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

University System of Ohio

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information & Administrator, National  
Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am writing to convey my strong support for the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) proposals to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As Chancellor of the University System of Ohio, I have asked the Ohio Academic Resource Network (OARnet), the University System of Ohio's technology operations arm, to facilitate the collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio which were submitted in the BTOP-Comprehensive Communities Infrastructure (BTOP-CCI) category.

OARnet has interconnected three integrated applications that are collectively seeking \$125M to \$150M in BTOP-CCI federal funds. Cumulatively, these proposals fall within the award funding thresholds of a single comprehensive proposal in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category. These proposals are referred to as the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" which includes:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The CCI category (approximately \$2.35 billion) focuses on Middle Mile broadband infrastructure projects that:

- Offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions (such as higher education, K-12, health care, libraries);

- Incorporate public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders;
- Bolster growth in economically distressed areas;
- Commit to serve community colleges;
- Commit to serve public safety entities;
- Include a Last Mile infrastructure component in unserved or underserved areas or, commitment letters from one or more Last Mile broadband service providers;
- Propose to contribute a non-federal cost match that equals or exceeds 30 percent of the total eligible costs of the project.

The potential impact of expanded broadband services to Ohio's higher education community and the state is vast. The OMMC will help generate jobs for Ohioans, provide services to unserved and underserved communities, expand health care facilities and program, increase distance learning opportunities, improve public safety, encourage community collaboration and more.

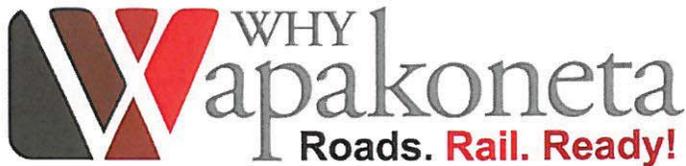
Furthermore, the OMMC provides infrastructure support for Governor Ted Strickland's priorities for the State of Ohio, including investing in Ohio's workforce, improving Ohio's business climate, strengthening Ohio's cities, developing rural Ohio, and increasing access to education and health care, and creating jobs by expanding the middle mile connection to 54 counties. When combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, that represents a total of 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

On behalf of the University System of Ohio, I strongly support the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium applications.

Sincerely,



Eric D. Fingerhut  
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents



## Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

30 E. Auglaize Street PO Box 1716

Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

T 419.738.6807 F 419.739.7080 E [gmyers@whywapakoneta.com](mailto:gmyers@whywapakoneta.com)

[www.whywapakoneta.com](http://www.whywapakoneta.com)

March 19, 2010

Mr. Timothy Berelsman  
Com Net, Inc.  
13888 County Road 25A  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman,

As executive director of the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council I am pleased to write concerning GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. On behalf of my board of directors, I can state that we are enthusiastic partners with Com Net in this important regional project. We believe it will greatly enhance the opportunities for economic development not only in Wapakoneta, but throughout west central Ohio.

Wapakoneta's 470-acre West Central Ohio Industrial Center will soon become the first certified manufacturing site under Ohio's new Job Ready Sites program. It is currently Ohio largest rail-served, greenfield industrial site. It is expected to provide significant, regional economy-shifted opportunities for the people of Ohio. We are convinced Com Net's GigEPAC OMMC project will greatly enhance our site's ability to generate new jobs for Ohio. Regional broadband capacity is vitally important to the high tech companies targeted by the Ohio Department of Development for its new Job Ready Sites like the West Central Ohio Industrial Center.

Your project's capacity to upgrade service to our regional universities and colleges will also impact the long term success of our attempts to encourage major industrial projects within the region. Better broadband capacity will increase connectivity between these institutions and our companies, providing greater opportunities for work force development. Worker training and re-training rank among the highest concerns for companies considering new locations. To make Ohio competitive we need projects like this to keep our work force training capacities at their best.

We are excited about the GigEPAC OMMC project. We applaud you for your efforts to help grow good jobs in west central Ohio. We look forward to participating in collaboration with Com Net. We believe this innovative opportunity will deliver the robust network we need in a highly economical manner.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregory A. Myers', is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Gregory A. Myers  
Executive Director

**PAULDING COUNTY**  
**Department of Job**  
**and Family Services**  
303 WEST HARRISON STREET  
PAULDING, OHIO 45879 419-399-3756



**N. COREY WALKER, Administrator**

August 14, 2009

Com Net, Inc.  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Paulding County Department of Job and Family Services is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net. I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our outreach and services. This project will assist with courthouse connectivity along with city utilities (smart-grid), transportation and other Infrastructure Administration connectivity at the State, County, Township and Local levels

I agree that cost effective operations that provide broadband capabilities in unserved and underserved rural Northwest, Ohio will benefit PCDJFS. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,

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

N. Corey Walker, Director  
Paulding County Department of Job and Family Services

William G. O'Brien  
President

Philip S. Mote  
Vice-President

Jim L. Albaugh  
Trustee

Marjorie D. Coate  
Fiscal Officer

July 14, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Trustees of Union Township, we would like to voice our concerns and importance for the residents of Union Township to have access to high-speed internet service at affordable prices.

We have received letters from residents who are teachers working with students, people working on degrees, and others that do not have access and cannot get high speed internet. This is a hardship and slow and frustrating process for them and the people they are working with. It is a definite disadvantage for our rural students who are using dial up access.

We feel the ideal solution would be for the Telco's to offer this in the form of a fiber line the same as telephone and electric, as the internet today can be viewed as a necessary and public utility.

This would require a subsidy, and could be done the same as the rural electrification and telephone were done in the past. This would equip the rural home for use of today's and future technology advances.

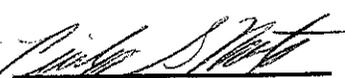
We feel when a service provider is given an exclusive service area ( i.e.: Verizon, Time Warner, etc.) they should provide service to anyone requesting it and those charges should be priced in the contract or provided by subsidy's and done in a timely manner.

It is assumed today that everyone has high-speed internet (what's your internet address?). More business, banking, finance, research, and education depend on it. With the increased graphics and videos on web pages, dialup is almost unusable, not to mention the large file sizes in use today. To be just usable, speeds must be 1.5 MB or greater.

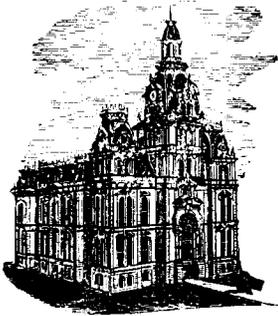
The citizens of Union Township, a rural area, are aware of the internet, educated, and are asking for access to it. They would use it if offered at affordable prices.

Sincerely,  
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

  
WILLIAM G. O'BRIEN  
President

  
PHILIP S. MOTE  
Vice-President

  
JIM L. ALBAUGH  
Trustee



*Welcome Home*  
VAN WERT COUNTY • OHIO

GARY D. ADAMS • CLAIR DUDGEON • HAROLD L. MERKLE

## VAN WERT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

114 EAST MAIN STREET • SUITE 200

VAN WERT, OHIO 45891-1725

PHONE: 419-238-6159 • FAX: 419-238-4528



LARRY E. CLOUSE  
CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

August 11, 2009

Com Net, Inc.  
Mr. Tim Berelsman  
P. O. Box 2038  
13888 County Road 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Van Wert County Commissioners are in support of Com Net and the Middle Mile project. We believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance Van Wert County. This project will help upgrade our E911/PSAP network, as well as providing fiber connections to our county schools and internet availability to the underserved areas of our county.

Upgrading our E911/PSAP by joining with other counties within the State of Ohio will allow us to share the costs/services with those counties and therefore make this more affordable to us. We also are in support of getting broadband to the underserved areas of our county. This will permit more efficient operation of county government and related services. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will also provide much needed facilities for future economic development.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF VAN WERT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS  
John E. Love  
Travis A. Jerwers  
Vincent T. Schroeder

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF PUTNAM COUNTY**

245 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
OTTAWA, OHIO 45875-1968  
419/523-3656  
FAX: 419/523-9213

ADMINISTRATOR  
Jessica L. Trinko  
[REDACTED]  
CLERK  
Betty I. Schroeder  
GRANTS/WAGE COORDINATOR  
Lisa A. Greear

August 13, 2009

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

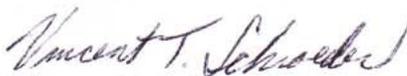
Dear Mr. Berelsman:

As Commissioners of Putnam County, we believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the local community of Putnam County. This project will help connect our schools to NOACSC – improve the relationship of the PSAP's around the State, help the Ambulatory Care Center become more efficient while using modern equipment, connect the Court House with City Utilities to improve communications.

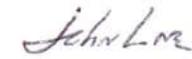
I believe these projects would be very beneficial to better serve and help educate the citizens of our community and the entire County. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Glandorf Telephone Co., Inc. and Com Net, Inc.

We believe this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,

  
Vincent T. Schroeder

  
Travis Jerwers

  
John Love

Putnam County Commissioners

# Henry County Commissioners

Henry County Office Complex, 1853 Oakwood Avenue, Napoleon, OH 43545

Phone: 419-592-4876 Fax: 419-592-4016 E-mail: [commissioners@henrycountyohio.com](mailto:commissioners@henrycountyohio.com)



**Board of County  
Commissioners:**  
Robert E. Hastedt  
Richard C. Myers  
Thomas H. VonDeylen

**Clerk:**  
Vicki R. Glick

**Administrative  
Assistant:**  
Cathy Behnfeldt

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday - Friday

**Web Site:**  
[henrycountyohio.com](http://henrycountyohio.com)

Com Net, Inc.  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd. 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

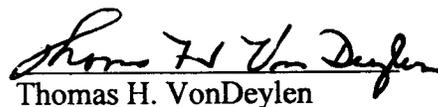
Dear Mr. Berelsman:

We at Henry County are very excited about Middle Mile project and offer this letter of support. I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance our community. The project includes possibly connecting our hospital to larger hospitals. It also has the potential to enhance our local libraries. These two areas along with the enhancement of our 911 systems and possibly better connectivity of government offices are very interesting to us. Also we like the idea of getting broadband coverage to areas of our county that do not currently have this coverage.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,

  
Richard C. Myers

  
Thomas H. VonDeylen

  
Robert E. Hastedt

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Sam Bassitt  
W. Dan Reiff  
Greg Sneary**

# Allen

County Ohio

**ADMINISTRATOR**

**Becky R. Saine**

**CLERK**

**Keili A. Singhaus**

301 N. Main Street . P.O. Box 1243 . Lima, Ohio 45802-1243 . 419-228-3700 Ext 8725 . [www.allencountyohio.com](http://www.allencountyohio.com)

---

March 25, 2010

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Allen County is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe our organizations involvement in the GigEPAC OMMC project will be beneficial for western Ohio.

Com Net and Allen County are involved in discussion about benefits of the proposed fiber facilities as follow:

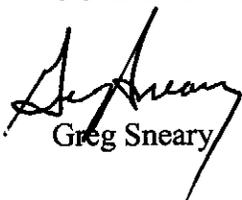
- a. Affordable Gb connectivity to various County Buildings
- b. Gb Connectivity between the City Of Lima and Allen County
- c. Potentially cut out the need to duplicate services in the County
- d. Provide a robust fiber backbone for Disaster Recovery and Safety Services

I agree that this middle mile network will greatly enhance connectivity between Northwestern Ohio's rural community and its metropolitan hubs in Toledo, Lima, Dayton and Cincinnati. We believe this can be done by leveraging the assets in place by Com Net and its partners to enhance our county and cities connectivity. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Greg Sneary

  
W. Dan Reiff

  
Sam Bassitt

# Fulton County COMMISSIONERS



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Paul Barnaby  
Dean Genter  
Joseph Short

## ADMINISTRATOR

Vond T. Hall

## CLERK

Jennifer Connors

## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Andrew R. Votava

## ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE

Barb Colon

152 S. Fulton St.  
Suite 270  
Wauseon, Ohio  
43567-3309

Ph. (419) 337-9255  
Fax (419) 337-9285

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## SESSIONS:

Monday and  
Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

March 17, 2010

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. We believe the Middle Mile project for western Ohio will greatly enhance our on going technology efforts. This project will enhance our economic development efforts for existing business and industry and allow for greater connectivity to a more metropolitan environment without sacrificing the rural quality of life and lifestyle we all enjoy.

We agree that some of the rural areas are in fact underserved with technology resources and this project will aid our workforce development efforts through distance learning at an affordable price. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will deliver a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Vond Hall  
County Administrator  
Fulton County



Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Rhodes State College is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe the Middle Mile project for western Ohio will greatly enhance our ability to effectively serve our students. This project will make distance education more viable and attractive to the students in our nine county service area. It would make a college education much more attainable and possible for the large segment of our population that relies on the availability of online and distance education opportunities.

Studies have shown that distance education is outpacing traditional on-campus education in our busy and fast-paced world. These monies would allow Com Net to:

- Offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions (such as higher education, K-12, health care, libraries)
- Incorporate public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders
- Bolster growth in economically distressed areas
- Commit to serve community colleges

We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will deliver a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Simindinger".

Kathy Simindinger  
I.T. Chair/Rhodes State College



*Office of the President*

August 11, 2009

Com Net, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd. 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

We at Northwest State Community College are very excited about the Middle Mile project and offer this letter of support. I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance Northwest State Community College. This project will enable cost effective connectivity to Metro Ohio.

I agree that the interconnectivity of public safety, education, health care, technology (libraries) and local government entities will benefit communities and the college as a whole. This project will encourage growth and development throughout our community.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Stuckey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas L. Stuckey Ph.D.  
President





Office of the President

205 Bricker Hall  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210-1357

Phone (614) 292-2424  
Fax (614) 292-1231

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications  
and Information  
Administrator for National Telecommunications  
and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my strong support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC)" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications, which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)—led by Horizon Telecom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium—led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse—An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project—led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public-private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network (OARnet), the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio (USO), which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, seven urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, nine public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling

Page 2

March 19, 2010

The OMMC proposed projects would extend and enhance critical broadband services to anchor USO institutions such as The Ohio State University, which will benefit from greater connectivity for applications to their regional campuses throughout Ohio.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in increased collaboration between higher education, community colleges, K-12, and adult education centers across Ohio through the use of video and online learning. Students and scholars at all levels will have access to countless resources and content opportunities from Ohio State to share real time knowledge and applications using technology.

Currently, Ohio State ranks 7th in research expenditures among all public universities. Increased network connectivity in Ohio would allow for dissemination of knowledge across the state of Ohio as well as nationally. For example, physicists at Ohio State are participating in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment. With increased bandwidth and use of Internet2's advanced internet technologies, higher education institutions and K-12's across Ohio can experience the results obtained from these projects.

Ohio leads the nation in job losses which are due to the closing and downsizing of manufacturing plants across the state. Ohio's workforce needs to be retrained in technology fields such as computer science. The OMMC's proposal for extending the network to our University branches will allow us to expand their offerings for retraining the adult workforce.

Since this project will also expand service to healthcare anchor institutions, we will be able to offer access to medical services and expertise from The Ohio State University Medical Center to rural and remote hospitals. This will improve the overall quality of healthcare for these areas of the state.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties. Implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

The Ohio State University would be pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in Ohio.

Sincerely,



E. Gordon Gee  
President



BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

*Office of the President*

220 McFall Center  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0010  
Phone: 419-372-2211  
Fax: 419-372-6050  
www.bgsu.edu

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Bowling Green State University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

*The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical broadband services to anchor institutions in our area, such as the Firelands College, and to the K-12 schools in Northwest Ohio.*

*This will enable our institution to (for example):*

- *Enhance access to over 200 adult workforce centers in Ohio, making Bowling Green State University classes available to working non-traditional students seeking a college education.*
- *Enhance our ability to offer masters level degree programs to Ohio K-12 teachers via distance education and telepresence technologies.*
- *Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to K-12 schools in 68 of Ohio's 88 counties to provide access to college courses that they don't have access to today. In western Ohio alone, there are 1174 schools with an enrollment of 562,440 which have restricted access to College course materials and classes.*
- *Enhance the ability of Bowling Green State University to support the growing number of collaborative partnerships across the state in the delivery of multi-institution degree programs.*

*We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in expanded access for K-12 students to gain access to college classes. Access will also be greatly enhanced for those adult learners who wish to enhance their skills and/or pursue a college degree.*

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTLA-BTOP funding.

Bowling Green State University is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,



Carol A. Cartwright  
President



*Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic  
Affairs*

*Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390  
419.530.2739 Phone  
419.530.4496 Fax  
www.utoledo.edu*

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of The University of Toledo, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

One critical element of The University of Toledo's mission is "Engagement, Outreach and Service". We hold that it is our duty to try to provide services that meet students' and regional needs and, where possible, exceed expectations; be a global resource and the partner of choice for education, individual development. We also recognize that increasing demands of the global

Page 2

economy require that American high school students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college, the workplace and life. Unquestionably, the goals and mission of OMMC align well with the mission of The University of Toledo. We can certainly work in concert to enhance outcomes for our community.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon the award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

The University of Toledo is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary R. Haggett".

Rosemary Haggett, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of the University of Dayton, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

This will enable our institution to:

- Collaborate in shared internet resources to reduce cost and provide improved delivery and enhanced participation in on-line learning programs.
- Strengthen and simplify the transition process for community college students to pursue four-year degrees through on-line curriculum.
- More fully leverage investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through research innovations, job creation and economic development
- Bridge the technological divide that will ultimately strengthen our urban and suburban K-12 schools, thus boosting economic opportunities that will help maintain and create jobs.
- Create and support initiatives that will increase the attractiveness of the region to a highly skilled workforce, particularly recent college graduates who tend to look outside the Miami Valley for employment opportunities.

In recent years, limited access to affordable or available broadband services in the Dayton region has hampered several efforts to encourage higher education degree pursuit or completion among many economically disadvantaged members of our community.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding. The University of Dayton is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Curran, Ph.D.  
President



Office of the President  
University of Cincinnati  
P.O. Box 210063  
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0063

Phone: (513) 556-2201  
Fax: (513) 556-3010  
Email: President@uc.edu

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of the University of Cincinnati, I am writing to express support for the “Ohio Middle Mile Consortium” applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMMC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs), which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

Strickling letter  
March 19, 2010  
Page 2

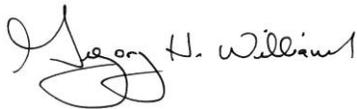
The awarding of these proposals will provide improved broadband across the State of Ohio, which has the potential to increase academic and research collaborations that would not have been possible before. Additionally, partnerships with non-academic public and private entities can also be established due to the increased connectivity the University of Cincinnati will have with the areas affected by the awarding of these proposals.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties, which when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

The University of Cincinnati is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory H. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gregory H. Williams  
President

GHW:ml/mkj



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and  
Information and Administrator, National  
Telecommunications and Information  
Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the President of Ohio Northern University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium's" application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC) – led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium – led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse – An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project – led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus

their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical broadband services to anchor institutions in our area, such as Ohio Northern University in Hardin County, Ohio.

This will enable our institution to:

- Facilitate educational programs for youth and adult populations and collaborate with programs at other higher education institutions.
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development for the area.
- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to education and healthcare facilities in rural Hardin County.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to four high schools and several public libraries in the area.

Broadband services in Hardin County are currently either limited or non-existent and this has negatively affected our ability to obtain competitive pricing for broadband connectivity and to effectively reach some citizens and K-12 schools.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in increased connectivity to serve the underserved areas of the state of Ohio including Hardin County.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Ohio Northern University is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in Ohio.

Sincerely,  
  
Kendall L. Baker  
President

March 22 2010

3520 Central Parkway  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223-2690

513-569-1500 tel  
[www.cincinnati-state.edu](http://www.cincinnati-state.edu)

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and Administrator, National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telecom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

Although Cincinnati State is not a participant in this effort, developing comprehensive middle mile services for the target areas will benefit the entire network of institutions of higher education in the state. It will enable community anchor institutions to tap into upgraded service, particularly our sister community colleges in this area. Upgraded service will allow our institutions to more fully integrate our work and learn from one another in the coming years.

Sincerely,

  
John Henderson  
Interim President

COMMISSIONERS  
John E. Love  
Travis A. Jerwers  
Vincent T. Schroeder

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF PUTNAM COUNTY**

245 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
OTTAWA, OHIO 45875-1968  
419/523-3656  
FAX: 419/523-9213

ADMINISTRATOR  
Jessica L. Trinko  
putcojtrinko@bright.net  
CLERK  
Betty I. Schroeder  
GRANTS/WAGE COORDINATOR  
Lisa A. Greear

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

March 18, 2010

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

As Commissioners of Putnam County, and supporters of the GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project, we believe the Middle Mile project for western Ohio will greatly enhance the community of Putnam County. This project will help improve the connectivity to the E-911/PSAP Centers around the State, help the Ambulatory Care Center become more efficient while using modern equipment, connect the Court House with City Utilities to improve communications.

I believe this project would be very beneficial to better serve and help educate the citizens of our community and the entire County. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Glandorf Telephone Co., Inc. and Com Net, Inc.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will deliver a robust network in a highly economical manner.

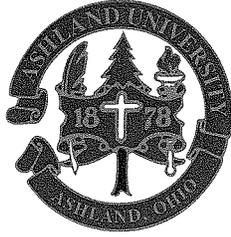
Sincerely;



John Love  
Commissioner



Vincent Schroeder  
Commissioner



Office of the President

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Ashland University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
March 22, 2010  
Page Two

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in the increased ability of Ashland University to offer educational services and training to a wider area of Ohio. Additionally, increased access to broadband would offer new opportunities for sharing resources and technical infrastructure with our partners in the community.

There are currently limited broadband services in Ashland County and the surrounding areas which have severely impacted our ability to affordably deliver courses remotely, provide remote assessment of student teachers in our education programs, and offer training in telemedicine technologies to our nursing students. Additionally, the lack of substantial and affordable broadband has limited our ability to collaborate and share resources with other public and private agencies in the community.

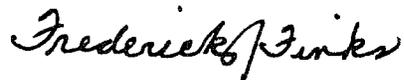
Ashland University is a mid-sized private university in Ohio, located between Cleveland and Columbus. The University operates centers in 8 counties in 2 states, providing professional and continuing education to a variety of metropolitan and rural areas. *We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in greater access for students to participate in educational opportunities and enhance the teaching and learning experience.*

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Ashland University is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in northeast Ohio.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick J. Finks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Frederick J. Finks  
President

FJF:lg



March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information &  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Rhodes State College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

There are currently limited broadband access points within Northwest Ohio which drives up last mile costs for Rhodes State, K12 schools, hospitals, industries, and homes. This has negatively impacted our ability to deliver the expanded video-enriched distance learning offerings to students within the 10 counties included the College's service area.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in:

- Improved access for delivering video conferencing courses to the Allied Health Consortium member institutions (Urbana University, Northwest State Community College, Marion Technical College, and Rhodes State).



- Expanded access for students to connect to Rhodes State's distance learning offerings.
- Reduced cost for Rhodes State's last mile connection and the potential off-site facilities outlined within the College's Institutional Strategic Plan 2012.
- Expanded access to Lima healthcare area facilities for sharing training materials.
- Enhanced communications with emergency response teams within Allen County.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties. Substantially upgrading the broadband infrastructure through the OMMC project will enable Rhodes State College to better fulfill its mission of "changing lives, building futures, and improving communities through higher learning."

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Rhodes State College is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in Ohio.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. McCurdy".

Debra L. McCurdy  
President, Rhodes State College

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Owens Community College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the “Ohio Middle Mile Consortium” applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telecom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The three areas that the OMMC project will assist are the areas that are most dynamically affected by the digital divide that is affecting the United States. The Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium will provide broadband connectivity to Ohio’s most underserved area and one of the highest areas for unemployment. The Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech

Powerhouse will assist in the redevelopment of one of Ohio's most industrialized areas that has been hard hit by the recent recession.

The GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium will directly affect students that Owens Community College serves in western Ohio. Many residents in these areas do not have access to reasonably priced broadband Internet services. Most Owens students are working adults that are juggling family, work, and educational responsibilities. By providing good Internet services, we are helping them study from home and be successful in their studies.

The Middle Mile Consortium will provide economical Internet services to area school systems. Broadband Internet connections facilitates the partnership between Owens Community College and the school systems. These partnerships will result in achieving the Early College Credit and sophomores to seniors' goals of the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

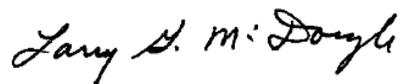
Owens has developed several excellent training programs with GROB and Cooper Tire and Rubber. Improving available broadband access to these industries will facilitate the training and college level courses that Owens conducts for these companies. With increased Internet connectivity, new course offerings would be offered. These courses would include distance education courses as well as management courses using Owens Internet based closed circuit TV system.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Owens Community College is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. McDougle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'M'.

Larry McDougle, Ph.D.  
Interim President

# FINDLAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

*Office of the President*

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the President of The University of Findlay, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

OMMC projects will provide catalysts to infrastructure enhancements needed for the state and nation to compete educationally and economically. As an institution that has taken an active role in seeking broadband solutions for the entire region, The University of Findlay sees substantial benefits from this initiative not only for ourselves, but also for other key not-for-profit organizations, including local K-12 schools, the Findlay campus of Owens Community College, and the Blanchard Valley Regional Health Center.

A few of the important benefits of OMMC's initiative include:

1. **Increased Access** – Though The University of Findlay is well-served by a high speed connection to the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet) fiber-optic network, our online services also are dependent on the connectivity of our constituents. As a leader in online education with approximately 20% of our credit hours earned via online instruction, connectivity is increasingly important to educational delivery. Our utilization of synchronous online instruction is one we believe sets our programs above others that do not require such interaction. Individuals from areas of Ohio with no or very limited broadband access cannot participate in this enhanced online learning environment. The OMMC proposals will provide local Internet Service Providers with broadband options that correct this limitation and expand educational opportunity for non-traditional students, including those engaged in workforce retraining integral to job creation and economic development.
2. **Cloud Computing** – The OMMC positions The University of Findlay and the rest of Ohio for innovations that will be essential for future business competitiveness. These innovations emanate from the burgeoning growth of "cloud computing" (essentially shared services distributed through a common network) which is highly dependent on expanding

bandwidth. The University of Findlay, as well as other private, non-profit, and public enterprises will require ample bandwidth to take advantage of the opportunity to migrate services and even entire computing environments to cost-effective data centers accessible through "the cloud." This will only be possible if high bandwidth middle mile solutions are in place. Ohio is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the OMMC's initiative since OARnet already owns a 1600 mile fiber optic network that can easily separate different types of online traffic/service. Having this capability means private, public and non-profit data can utilize the same infrastructure without issue.

3. **Collaboration** – Currently, only The University of Findlay and Owens Community College's Findlay campus have direct fiber optic access to Ohio's state network in the Findlay area. The OMMC will provide much needed alternatives for K-12 schools; city, county and state government offices; medical facilities; and non-profits to connect to the state network and/or private providers. Besides providing all entities with high speed access for their individual institutional purposes, such high speed connectivity will foster collaboration between schools and professionals in scores of fields. Few resources would go further to improving higher education than to be able to better connect students and faculty directly with professionals working in the fields students intend to enter.

We are pleased that the OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding. The University of Findlay is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,



DeBow Freed

President, The University of Findlay



President's Office  
570 East Leffel Lane  
Post Office Box 570  
Springfield, OH 45501

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Clark State Community College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMMC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as the rural outreach sites of our campus and the twenty-four high schools with which we have dual enrollment partnerships in the GigEPAC Middle Mile Consortium in southwestern Ohio.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Page 2  
March 17, 2010

This will enable our institution to do the following:

- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long-term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development.
- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to education and healthcare facilities in Springfield, Urbana and eastern Greene County cities, but particularly the rural communities of Champaign and Greene County.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to our branch campus in Beavercreek and our satellite operation at Ohio-Hi-Point Career Technology Center and its locations in Logan and Champaign counties.

There is currently limited or lack of broadband services in Champaign County which has negatively affected our ability to deliver distance learning classes to various locations.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in increased access to online learning, It is important that we give our rural communities more resources to link people, educational opportunities, and each other .

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Clark State Community College is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio. We encourage your positive consideration of this application. It will make a difference to the students we serve!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Rafinski". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Karen E. Rafinski, Ph.D.  
President



March 22, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of the Art Academy of Cincinnati, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications, which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects would extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area. This will enable our institution to:

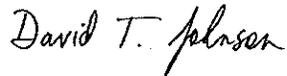
- Improve access to education
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to the public libraries in the area upon which our students rely.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

The Art Academy of Cincinnati is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,



David T. Johnson  
Interim President

Art Academy of Cincinnati  
1212 Jackson Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513-562-8750

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As President of Heidelberg University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- "Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)" - led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- "GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" - led by Com Net in western Ohio
- "Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project" - led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by OARnet, the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, including the main campuses of both Heidelberg University and Tiffin University main campuses, which are located in Tiffin.

To have adequate broadband services available to the Heidelberg campus and Tiffin community would enable us to:

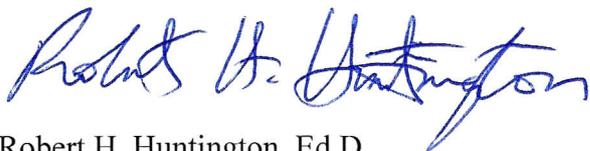
- Foster inter-campus sharing of resources among campuses, libraries, hospitals, and schools, including library collections and digital media which require higher bandwidth rates than what is now available or affordable.
- Connect local citizens to online courses and materials, including bandwidth-hungry video resources, as part of their online learning experience.
- Attract and retain our faculty by offering broadband throughout the surrounding area of Seneca County, where they live. Currently, DSL and cable only serve limited areas, mostly within the Tiffin city limits, leaving a disconnect between our technology-rich campus and technology-poor living areas for our faculty and staff.
- Connect local businesses with our campus resources as well as many others around the world through videoconferencing and other online delivery methods. With proper broadband access, we can bring these resources to them without requiring them to physically travel to us.
- Reduce our costs, and therefore the cost to students, of purchasing Internet bandwidth since the last-mile connections would be shortened dramatically by having a point-of-presence in Seneca County.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Heidelberg University is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in Ohio. Thank you for reviewing our input and considerations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert H. Huntington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert H. Huntington, Ed.D.  
President

RHH:km



# WILBERFORCE

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY • ESTABLISHED 1856

P.O. BOX 1001 1055 N. BICKETT RD. WILBERFORCE, OHIO 45384-1001

[www.wilberforce.edu](http://www.wilberforce.edu)

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Wilberforce University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
March 24, 2010  
Page Two

Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

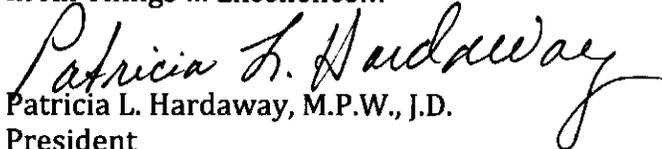
There is currently limited broadband service in Wilberforce which has negatively affected our ability to serve our students and the communities.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in an upgrade of broadband infrastructures to enable Wilberforce University, the local anchor institution, to link with local libraries, Miami Valley Hospitals in Central Ohio and surrounding communities.

Also it will enable the University to create Community Broadband Opportunity Centers equipped with broadband infrastructures for workforce development and job training. The centers will serve the underserved and underrepresented minority in Central Ohio generally, and Xenia and Dayton in particular. The centers will provide job training, technological skills upgrade and also provide opportunity for improved internet communication for the surrounding communities.

For example, broadband is totally absent in the south side of Xenia resulting in economic depression, lack of business opportunities, and lack of ability to access the World Wide Web. This program will help remedy these deficiencies and make a huge difference in these communities and to the residents.

In All Things ... Excellence!!!



Patricia L. Hardaway, M.P.W., J.D.  
President



# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

David R. Hopkins, President

Office of the President  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, OH 45435-0001  
(937) 775-2312  
FAX (937) 775-3663

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Asst. Sec. for Communications and Information and  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Wright State University, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

The OMMC is a public-private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Page 2  
March 25, 2010

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services eastward to anchor institutions in our area, such as improving and expanding our Nursing Education collaboration with Chillicothe. This will enable our institution to deliver health care initiatives and education easily into the Appalachian area.

This will also facilitate the delivery of teacher education northward to the rural areas between our main campus and our branch campus at Grand Lake St. Marys.

There is currently limited or lack of broadband services to our north and to the east which has negatively affected our ability to provide needed programs in Auglaize, Mercer and surrounding counties as well as supporting the efforts of our sister institutions in the Appalachian area.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will bring education to the students where they live. We have many students driving up to 150 miles, round trip, each time they need to come to campus. Beyond the commitment of time and money for the commute, the ability of these students to complete their programs of study in a timely manner is adversely affected.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding.

Wright State University is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,

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

David R. Hopkins



**Darke County  
Sheriff's Office**

5185 County Home Rd  
Greenville, Ohio 45331

***Brandon Redmond***

9-1-1 Coordinator/Communications Administrator

Office: 937-547-3911

Fax: 937-547-9456

Email: [BRedmond@DarkeCountySheriff.org](mailto:BRedmond@DarkeCountySheriff.org)

[www.DarkeCountySheriff.org](http://www.DarkeCountySheriff.org)

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Com Net Inc.  
Attn: Tim Berelsman  
Ref. Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Darke County 9-1-1 Coordinator/Administrator, I am in support of Com Net Inc.'s proposal to establish a fiber network connecting public safety and 9-1-1 PSAPS throughout Northern and Western Ohio.

This project will provide connectivity among the multi-county area and will improve interoperability among the multi-county area among dozens of agencies.

Broadband access is currently limited and this grant money would allow for the needed broadband infrastructure to be put in place. It is my hope that this grant is awarded so that Com Net can work with the public safety and critical incident facilities to improve broadband access.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Redmond  
9-1-1 Coordinator/Administrator  
Darke County Sheriff's Office

## 9-1-1 Operations

---

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman,

Van Wert County 9-1-1 Operations is very supportive of the Com Net Middle Mile project.

It is time for 9-1-1 to move into NG 9-1-1 (Next Generation 9-1-1). The Middle Mile project would put most of Ohio one step closer to accomplishing this initiative.

Currently cell phone users can text each other or send each other photographs. With today's 30 to 40 year old 9-1-1 network technology there is no way to send such information to the 9-1-1 Center (also known as PSAP).

There is currently no way for one 9-1-1 center to send map data to another 9-1-1 center across town or across the county line when a 9-1-1 call is misrouted.

The Middle Mile project would put a robust network in place that would put a pipeline so to speak in place to allow 9-1-1 to share data between PSAPS over a protected network.

I thank Com Net for taking on such an ambitious project that could benefit so many different agencies.

Sincerely,



Kim Brandt  
Van Wert County  
9-1-1 Coordinator



# 9-1-1

## PUTNAM COUNTY 9-1-1

1035 Heritage Trail  
Ottawa, Ohio 45875

(419) 523-5146

Fax: (419) 523-6598

Brad A. Brubaker, 9-1-1 Coordinator

E-Mail: putco911@bright.net

August 11, 2009

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

As the Putnam County E-911 coordinator, I believe the Middle Mile project will greatly enhance the community of Glandorf and all of Putnam County. This project will help improve the connectivity of the E-911/PSAP Centers and enhance the relationship with other PSAP's in Ohio.

I believe these projects would be very beneficial to better serve and help educate the citizens of our community and the entire County. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Glandorf Telephone Co., Inc. and Com Net, Inc.

We believe this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a most economical manner.

Sincerely,



Lt. Brad A. Brubaker  
9-1-1 Coordinator

James A. Luken, MPH, RS  
Health Commissioner

James S. Burkhardt, DO  
Medical Director

510 West Water Street, Suite 130, Troy, Ohio 45373-2985  
Phone (937) 440-8105 FAX (937) 440-8106



*"Living Longer, Living well"*

August 10, 2009

Nancy Sullivan  
Director of Special Projects  
Safety Building  
210 W. Main St.  
Troy, OH 45373

Re: Broadband Infrastructure Application – Health Care

Dear Nancy:

The fiber backbone would be of benefit to the Miami County Health District in two ways. It would provide the health district with more direct access into existing health systems as well as provide a higher capacity access to the general internet and other data systems. It would also provide the means for high speed internet to be available to the citizens of the county. This would allow them to access important and timely health information such as disease (such as swine flu) outbreak instructions etc.

We currently have broadband access with TimeWarner's RoadRunner. A fiber network would be a considerable upgrade, providing faster, more reliable Internet and data service that would benefit the taxpayers of Miami County.

Sincerely,

James A. Luken  
Health Commissioner





# CRESTVIEW LOCAL SCHOOLS

531 East Tully Street, Convoy, Ohio 45832



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**MIKE ESTES**

Superintendent

Phone: (419) 749-9100 ext. 4

Fax: (419) 749-4235

estes mike@crestviewknights.com

**LAURA A. METZGER**

Treasurer/CFO

Phone: (419) 749-9100 ext. 5

Fax: (419) 749-4235

metzger.laura@crestviewknights.com

Com Net, Inc  
PO Box 2038  
13888 Co. Rd 25A  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

Crestview Local Schools is an enthusiastic partner with Com Net in its GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project. I believe the Middle Mile project for western Ohio will greatly enhance Crestview Local Schools. This project will greatly increase the availability of higher and more reliable bandwidth connections to Crestview Local Schools as well as increase services to residents located in the northwest portion of Van Wert County.

I agree that the goal is to expand broadband connectivity to underserved areas and this project will provide Crestview Local Schools and the northwest section of Van Wert County with the increased connectivity options they need. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with Com Net.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will bring a robust network in a highly economical manner.

Sincerely,

Mike Estes  
Superintendent