

Project Partners



March 11, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of South Dakota Network, LLC (d/b/a SDN Communications ("SDN")), I am writing in support of the application of Dakota Carrier Network ("DCN") and its request for grant funding from your agency under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

As a *Round 1* recipient of a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, SDN Communications understands the importance of providing broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas. We strongly support the application of DCN for *Round 2* grant awards. They have the experience and expertise to grow the broadband infrastructure throughout the state of North Dakota.

The interconnection between DCN and SDN expands the regional reach and extends the broadband availability in both states. We believe that the mission of the NTIA and of the grant monies would be enhanced by this strong connection between a *Round 1* recipient (SDN) and a *Round 2* recipient (DCN).

SDN has reviewed the proposal submitted by DCN and believes it will provide significant regional and national network access. The proposed dedicated 10G Ethernet medical network and fiber connections to educational institutions, state agencies, and public safety offices will help fulfill the broadband service needs of the population.

SDN is a regional leader in state-of-the-art telecommunications. SDN's fiber optic network touches seven states and provides reliable Internet and data transport service to its customers in health care, education, banking, local and state government, emergency services and other local and regional anchor institutions.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the grant funding requested by Dakota Carrier Network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Shlanta".

Mark Shlanta
Chief Executive Officer



Information Technology Department

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept 112 • Bismarck, ND 58505-0100 • (701) 328-3190

March 15, 2010

DCN, LLC
ATTN: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass,

The North Dakota Information Technology Department (ITD) is a strong supporter of Dakota Carrier Network's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Broadband Project.

Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) and ITD have built a highly successful partnership. Over the past 10 years, DCN has provided statewide network connectivity (STAGEnet) for state government, political subdivisions, K-12 and higher education. Distance learning is a viable solution to educate students over the State's large landmass. STAGEnet hosts about 15,000 video conferences for K-12 schools annually and the demand is rising. As educators demand more video availability and more enhanced web content, bandwidth demands continue to increase. It is vital that DCN be able to provide the bandwidth necessary to accommodate the needs of ND's educational community.

ITD has partnered with the healthcare community to create the ND Health Information Technology (HIT) Office and Advisory Committee. The HIT committee is developing strategic and operational plans to create a statewide health information exchange. Obtaining broadband connectivity to all healthcare facilities throughout the state will be crucial to the success of the exchange and the advancement of healthcare in North Dakota.

Finally, public safety is a priority for the State. In order to better serve the citizens of North Dakota, first responders need to have broadband capabilities statewide. The fiber upgrade to state radio towers, as well as other public safety facilities, is an important part of our statewide public safety infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Feldner", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Lisa Feldner, Ph. D.
Chief Information Officer



March 8, 2010

Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

We are submitting this letter in support of Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) application to NTIA for BroadbandUSA Recovery funds to connect Critical Community Facilities throughout North Dakota. Dakota Central Telecommunications and its subsidiaries have agreed to partner with DCN to provide fiber facilities to these institutions whereby DCN will be responsible for the middle-mile portions of the project and our companies will be responsible for providing the last-mile portion if we are awarded the grant funds.

Our companies serve the Foster and Stutsman county seats of Carrington and Jamestown as well as the smaller communities and rural residents located in Eddy, Kidder, Lamoure, Logan and Wells counties. Since North Dakota contains much rural area, the two county seats are focal points for many square miles of rural area surrounding the communities. Many of the healthcare, public safety, governmental and educational facilities for the surrounding rural residents are located in these communities. It is necessary that these Critical Community Facilities have broadband connections to access other local, regional and national institutions.

Although we have been working the past 8 years to provide fiber facilities to as many locations as we can determine to be economically feasible, we have quite a number of locations remaining where we need to construct fiber facilities. Our last-mile portion of the application focuses on eleven sites including National Guard HQ & maintenance facilities, health care facilities, nursing homes, schools, national wildlife headquarters sites and a FAA tower site.

We have been deploying Fiber-To-The-Premise (FTTP) technology since 2002 and overbuilt a Qwest community of approximately 16,000 residents in 2004 and 2005. Thereafter, we have continued to construct fiber facilities further into our service territory on an annual basis and have approximately 90 % of customers served by fiber. However, the construction of fiber to the remaining subscriber base is more economically challenging due to the low population density of their locations. Please see the attached management team biographies ensuring our capabilities of constructing and maintaining a broadband network.

Our company commits to providing \$ 158,955 towards the cost of constructing facilities as designated in the attached document.

With DCN's proposed project and our commitment to the last-mile facilities located in our service area, we will be able upgrade the connectivity, access and transport facilities for the remaining Critical Community Facilities located in our service that currently do not have fiber constructed to their locations. The project will enhance the healthcare, education, government and public safety services available to the rural residents of our service area. Development of these services is critical to the long-term growth and sustainability of communities.

Please contact me at 701-652-6105 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Larson", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Keith A. Larson
General Manager

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Rural Broadband Projects to Bring Economic Opportunity to Communities in Eight States

WASHINGTON, March 23, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of broadband infrastructure projects to give rural residents in 8 states access to improved economic and educational opportunities. Funding for the projects is being provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"The broadband projects announced today will give rural Americans access to the tools they need to attract new businesses, educational opportunities and jobs," Vilsack said. "The Obama Administration understands that bringing broadband to rural America provides a gateway for businesses and key anchor institutions – such as libraries, schools, public buildings and community centers to provide services to thousands of Americans. These projects will create jobs building these networks, and the completed systems will provide a platform for rural economic growth for years to come."

In all, \$150 million will be invested in 12 projects through funding made available by Congress in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. An additional \$68.2 million in private investment will be provided in matching funds, bringing the total funds invested to \$218.2 million. To date, \$1.05 billion has been provided to construct 67 broadband projects in 30 states and one territory.

For example, in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority (TOUA) has been selected to receive a \$3.6 million loan and a \$3.6 million grant to design, engineer and construct a digital network to replace dial-up service. This project will provide services throughout the Tohono O'odham Reservation using Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) and fixed wireless broadband.

Also, in the rural towns of Madison and Lamont, Kan., Madison Telephone, LLC (MTC) was selected to receive a \$3.5 million loan and a \$3.5 million grant to design, engineer and construct an FTTP network. This project will improve the existing copper-based network that currently limits average customer service speeds. MTC will upgrade this network to FTTP facilities and technologies, thereby eliminating this last mile limitation.

Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan, grant or loan/grant agreement. A complete list of recent Recovery Act broadband award recipients by state is below:

Alaska

- Copper Valley Wireless, Inc.: The Cordova, Alaska, Microwave Project; \$1,747,796 loan and \$1,747,795 grant. The funding will extend middle-mile connectivity from Naked Island to Cordova.

Arizona

- Tohono O'odham Utility Authority: The Fiber Route - Middle Mile Project; \$3,565,900 loan and \$3,565,900 grant. The funding will enable high-speed DSL services throughout the reservation with Fiber-to-the-Premises and fixed wireless broadband in certain areas.

Illinois

- Norlight Telecommunications, Inc.: The Rural High-Speed Ethernet Network - Southern Illinois Project; \$8,538,224 loan, \$14,230,375 grant and \$5,692,151 of private investment. The funding will provide more than 1,600 miles of middle-mile fiber-optic network throughout 24 southern counties to deliver high-speed Ethernet connectivity.

Kansas

- South Central Telephone Association, Inc.: The Lake City & Sun City Rural Fiber-to-the-House (FTTH) Project; \$871,200 grant, and \$3,550,800 of private investment. The funding will provide FTTH broadband service to all unserved establishments in the telephone exchanges of Lake and Sun City.
- Madison Telephone, LLC: The Madison-Lamont Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Project; \$3,519,750 loan, \$3,519,750 grant and \$763,634 of private investment. The funding will provide FTTP last-mile broadband service to exchange areas, including the Kansas telephone exchanges of Madison and Lamont.
- J.B.N. Telephone Company, Inc.: The West Cluster Plus Barnes Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Project; \$5,489,250 loan, \$5,489,250 grant, and \$3,697,619 of private investment. The funding will provide FTTP broadband service throughout seven western exchanges (West Cluster) and the Barnes exchange (Barnes).

Minnesota

- Northeast Service Cooperative: The Northeast Minnesota Middle Mile Project; \$21,749,110 loan and \$21,749,110 grant. The funding will provide middle-mile, dark fiber, wavelength services to private-sector providers in rural areas of northeast Minnesota.
- Minnesota Valley Television Improvement Corporation: The Minnesota Wireless Expansion Project; \$562,776 loan and \$562,776 grant, and \$281,388 of private investment. The funding will provide a two-way broadband internet network to unserved and underserved areas of west central and south central Minnesota, providing 34 additional wireless (WiMAX) access points.

North Dakota

- Dakota Central Telecom 1 (DCT1): The Dakota Central Telecom I Project; \$2,252,250 grant, and \$2,499,597 of private investment. The funding will provide Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) broadband services to households, businesses and key community organizations in portions of the Streeter and Gackle exchanges that are currently unserved.

Oklahoma

- Pioneer Long Distance, Inc.: The Western Oklahoma Wireless (WOW) Project; \$1,819,349 loan and \$1,783,322 grant. The funding will provide wireless broadband service to unserved and underserved rural areas in western Oklahoma.
- Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.: The Western Oklahoma Broadband Infrastructure Development Project; \$3,366,188 loan, \$10,098,562 grant, and \$23,297,597 of private

investment. The funding will provide a broadband infrastructure to rural areas within the western Oklahoma panhandle area.

Texas

- Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.: The Western Texas Broadband Infrastructure Development Project; \$16,891,875 loan, \$16,891,875 grant and \$28,417,425 of private investment. The funding will provide a broadband infrastructure to increase Internet availability and access speeds in rural areas of western Texas.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



March 22, 12010

Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

SRT is an ILEC in northwestern North Dakota and part owner of Dakota Carrier Network (DCN). We support DCN and commit to being a Project Partner in their application for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant to expand broadband, DCN's backbone, and service to Medial, Healthcare, Long-Term Care, Public Safety, Education, and Government facilities.

Broadband service is an important tool for these communities for public services, economic survival and growth. Currently, several of our institutions are underserved due to their remote locations and/or great distances of the last mile connection. Broadband connectivity makes it possible for more convenient and integrated medical services. Different parts of the public sector are allowed to provide a better and more efficient service by linking up and creating a networked virtual organization that brings together agencies to share processes and functions. Advanced broadband will support current and future public safety and government communications systems. It will provide a higher-quality, higher-capacity, reliable and more secure transport for our key community users, including law enforcement, fire, emergency management and public health.

Through the funding of this proposal and the matching funds committed by SRT, these goals of innovation, economic development, environment protection, education, healthcare improvements and community development, will be achieved.

We urge NTIA to fund this grant application. SRT is committed to placing fiber to the locations included in the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Lysne', written in a cursive style.

Steve Lysne

507 South Main
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-483-4000
Fax 701-483-0001
1-888-225-5282
www.ctctel.com



March 16, 2010

NTIA
BTOP Stimulus Application – DCN

Letter of commitment

To whom it may concern:

*Consolidated
Telcom*

Consolidated Telcom with this letter hereby commits to participating and supporting DCN in its application for BTOP funds as a project partner. Consolidated will commit to construction expenditures of \$250,000 for construction of fiber facilities to 1 education site, 4 state agencies, 1 National Guard location, 2 healthcare provider locations, 1 District health location, and 2 State of North Dakota Radio sites. Consolidated is willing and has the resources at its disposal to complete these projects within the three year timeframe required in the BTOP grant application.

*Consolidated
Enterprises, Inc.*

Consolidated's portion of the proposed project will be to upgrade the connectivity/access and transport for numerous critical community entities in ND along with DCN's other project partners and supporters. Operating in the southwest corner of the state, Consolidated proposes to enhance access for healthcare, public safety, government, and academia entities by upgrading current copper facilities to Ethernet fiber facilities and connecting them to DCN's statewide transport network.

*Consolidated
Communications
Corporation*

Once again, Consolidated is committed to participating along with DCN and its other project partners and supporters to the development and enhancement of a statewide broadband system to enhance the service offerings to critical community facilities, public safety entities, government agencies, and academic institutions.

*Consolidated
Cable Vision, Inc.*

Sincerely,

*Consolidated
Communications
Networks, Inc.*

Paul Schuetzler
CEO
Consolidated Telcom



March 22, 2010

NTIA
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Reservation Telephone Cooperative (RTC) of Parshall, ND, we commit our full support and cooperation for Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) application to NTIA for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant.

RTC has a pending Grant/Loan award from round I BIP application (Grant ID 907) serving 22 critical community facilities. This coupled with our project partnership with DCN will help further expand broadband services and provide quality broadband to Healthcare, Long-Term Care, Public Safety, Educational, and Governmental facilities throughout our service area in rural North Dakota.

Currently RTC offers broadband speeds to some facilities where available. Due to the increasing demand of broadband, and the geographical structure of rural North Dakota, some areas have become economically prohibitive to provide the type of services available to more densely populated areas. For those areas not included in our BIP application, RTC has committed 30% match for the cost of constructing the proposed facilities located within our service area through the DCN application.

On behalf of RTC, I strongly urge NTIA to consider and accept DCN's application. DCN, along with RTC, is committed to providing rural North Dakota the same broadband services you would expect to find in large metropolitan areas. This grant would help make those expectations a reality and also promote growth, jobs, and opportunity in rural North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Royce S. Aslakson
CEO/General Manager

PO Box 68
Parshall ND 58770-0068
phone: 701.862.3115
phone: 1.888.862.3115
fax: 701.862.3821
web: www.RTC.coop

Royce S. Aslakson, CEO/General Manager
RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE



More Than a Telephone Company!

211 22nd St NW, PO Box 180
Devils Lake, ND 58301-0180
701-662-1100 or 1-800-880-4213
Fax 701-662-6446
www.goNDTC.com

March 22, 2010

DCN, LLC
Attention: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo ND 58108-2484

Dear Mr. Hass:

NDTC is committed to DCN by being a Project Partner in the application for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant to expand broadband service to Medical, Healthcare, Long-Term Care, Public Safety, Education, and Government facilities. Through the funding of this proposal and the matching funds committed by NDTC, the goals of innovation, economic development, environment protection, education, healthcare improvements and community development, will be achieved.

DCN's proposal will allow NDTC to facilitate expanded, secure, network capabilities that can be used by Healthcare, Public Safety, or Government entities. Increased network capabilities will provide healthcare facilities, especially those in rural areas, with better access to patient records and medical technology, which will result in improved patient care. NDTC connects to K-12 school systems in North Dakota, using DCN as middle-mile transport to the end user. Increased bandwidth provides these school's with access capabilities to provide Interactive Video to enhance student interaction and learning in the classroom. Public Safety facilities will benefit from DCN's proposal with greater bandwidth capabilities to upgrade the State Radio tower sites to fiber, one-step closer to the State's goal of developing a wireless communication system for dispatching and exchange of information throughout the state. Expanded network capabilities will allow NDTC to provide services that will encourage broadband usage, creating new jobs or securing existing jobs in our area.

We strongly urge the NTIA to fund this grant application. We sincerely thank you for your consideration on this issue and hope that you recognize the importance of this project as much as we do. Advanced broadband will support current and future public safety and government communications systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Dircks", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Dircks
General Manager

UNITED

TELEPHONE MUTUAL
AID CORPORATION

March 17, 2010


Mr. Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108-2484

Dear Evan,

United Communications and Turtle Mountain Communications provide Fiber Optic facilities to most of the critical community's entities in our service area (schools, government entities and hospitals).

We support Dakota Carrier Network effort to provide Fiber Optic Facilities to the two State Radio Towers and the Nursing Home. We will interconnect and cooperate in any means necessary to complete the project.

Thank you



Kenneth Carlson
General Manager
United Communications

MOORE & LIBERTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

301 Dewey Street • PO Box 66
Enderlin, ND 58027-0066
Telephone: 701-437-3300 • Fax: 701-437-3022
E-mail: mandl@mlgc.com



GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

905 Lenham Avenue SE • PO Box 506
Cooperstown, ND 58425-0506
Telephone: 701-797-3301 • Fax: 701-797-2543
E-mail: cooperstown@mlgc.com

March 16, 2010

NTIA

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the board of directors of Moore and Liberty Telephone Company of Enderlin, ND, and Griggs County Telephone Company of Cooperstown, ND (MLGC), I hereby certify our full support and cooperation of Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) application to NTIA for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant.

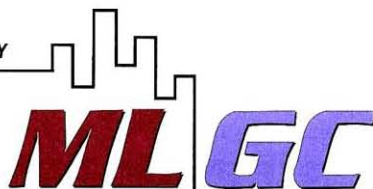
This grant, in conjunction with our partnership with DCN, will help expand broadband services to Healthcare, Long-Term Care, Public Safety, Educational and Governmental facilities throughout our service area in rural North Dakota.

Currently MLGC offers broadband speeds up to 10 Mbps to some facilities. Due to the increasing demand of broadband, and the geographical structure of rural North Dakota, some areas have become economically prohibitive in providing the same type of services you would expect to find in urban and more densely populated areas. Because of these challenges, Moore and Liberty Telephone and Griggs County Telephone have also applied for a last mile BIP application to work in conjunction with DCN's BTOP application. For those areas not included in our BIP application, Moore and Liberty Telephone and Griggs County Telephone have committed 30% of capital towards the cost of constructing the proposed facilities located within our services area.

MLGC is also applying for Grant/Loan funds under the BIP program (Easy Grant ID 4547 and 6206) which are not dependant on or duplicate any area in the DCN BTOP application. DCN's application will greatly enhance MLGC's ability to connect its subscribers to the rest of the world with higher bandwidths and better quality bandwidth.

MOORE & LIBERTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

301 Dewey Street • PO Box 66
Enderlin, ND 58027-0066
Telephone: 701-437-3300 • Fax: 701-437-3022
E-mail: mandl@mlgc.com



www.mlgc.com

Telephone/Internet
Communications

GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

905 Lenham Avenue SE • PO Box 506
Cooperstown, ND 58425-0506
Telephone: 701-797-3301 • Fax: 701-797-2543
E-mail: cooperstown@mlgc.com

On behalf of Moore and Liberty Telephone and Griggs County Telephone, I strongly urge NTIA to consider and accept DCN's application. DCN, Moore and Liberty Telephone and Griggs County Telephone are committed to providing rural North Dakota the same expected broadband services you would expect to find in large metropolitan areas. This grant would help make those expectations a reality and also promote growth, jobs, and opportunity to rural North Dakota.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter and look forward to promoting growth and opportunity in North Dakota alongside NTIA's goal to promote broadband throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

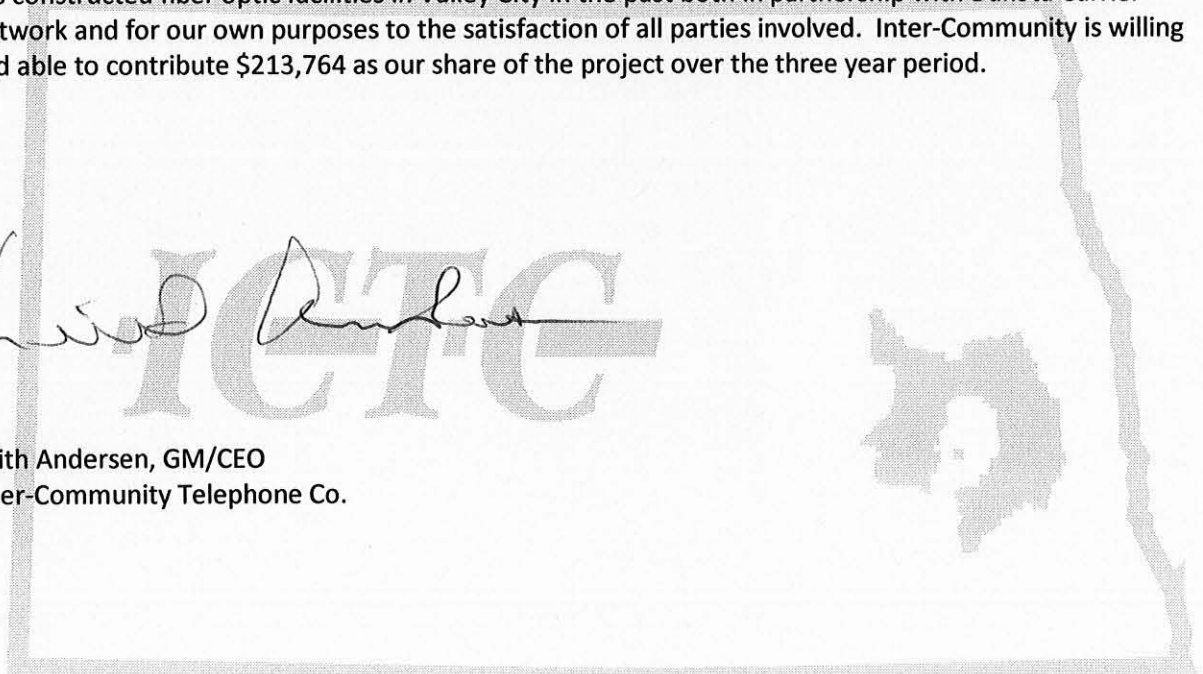

Tyler H. Kilde
VP/GM
Direct: 701-437-3417
tylerk@mlgc.com

Inter-Community Telephone Company

LETTER OF SUPPORT

DCN'S ARRA BTOP BROADBAND STIMULUS APPLICATION

As a Project Partner with Dakota Carrier Network's BTOP Broadband Stimulus Application, we at Inter-Community Telephone Co. heartily endorse this project. Inter-Community's portion of the project will be to build fiber optic cable infrastructure to critical locations in Valley City, ND. These locations house educational, state agency, National Guard and healthcare facilities (copy attached). Inter-Community has constructed fiber optic facilities in Valley City in the past both in partnership with Dakota Carrier Network and for our own purposes to the satisfaction of all parties involved. Inter-Community is willing and able to contribute \$213,764 as our share of the project over the three year period.



Keith Andersen, GM/CEO
Inter-Community Telephone Co.



February 23, 2010

Mr. Evan Hass
General Manager
Dakota Carrier Network
Fargo, ND

RE: DCN - BTOP Round 2 Middle Mile Application

Dear Mr. Hass:

Please be advised that Midstate supports DCN's effort in applying for funding to increase capacity and network speed to provision vital services to Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Governing Agencies, Schools, Nursing Homes and Medical Facilities in North Dakota. Midstate has been provisioning service to the above noted entities in partnership with DCN for a number of years. Within the local service operating exchanges Midstate serves, we currently provide or will have fiber deployed to the premises of all identified locations by the end of 2010. This will be completed and funded solely by Midstate.

It is critical to our last mile facilities for DCN to have sufficient capacity in order to provide the network speeds required by the above noted entities. Midstate has a high degree of confidence in DCN's ability to provide the quality of service necessary and we are committed in our partnership with DCN to successfully accomplish this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Wilhelmi".

Mark Wilhelmi
General Manager
Midstate Telephone Company



March 12, 2010

NTIA
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear NTIA:

On behalf of the State of North Dakota, Information Technology Department (NDITD) and Dakota Carrier Networks (DCN), I am pleased to write this letter in support of the BEK Communications Cooperative's Partnership application for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant to expand broadband service to Media, Healthcare, Long-Term care, Public Safety, Education, and Government facilities.

The current broadband service in some of these rural facilities is unacceptable. We cannot continue to ignore the fact that critical rural institutions are being quickly surpassed by other urban institutions that currently possess broadband capabilities.

Broadband service is becoming as important as highways to community survival and growth. The BEK Communications Cooperative currently serves the majority of our rural townships, offering broadband services up to 12 Mbps. In BEK's service area, 22% of all broadband customers derive income from home using BEK's broadband service. Currently, several of our underserved rural institutions are underserved due to their remote locations and great distances of the last mile connection. Broadband is not just about economic growth; it plays a key role in transforming local services and the way citizens and their leaders interact. Broadband connectivity makes it possible for more convenient and integrated medical services. Different parts of the public sector are allowed to provide a better and more efficient service by linking up and creating a networked virtual organization that brings together agencies to share processes and functions.

The State of North Dakota ITD appreciates all the communication services BEK is currently providing to our communities. BEK has a successful 56 year history of providing advanced services with broadband penetration achieving 58% of members served and a strong reputation for customer service. BEK has a reliable network and are focused on providing the best service possible to all of their users. Through the funding of this proposal and the leveraged funds committed by BEK Communications these goals of innovation, economic development,

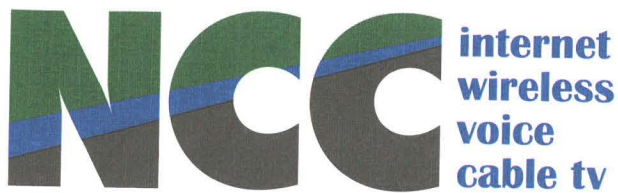
environment protection, education, healthcare improvements and community development, will be achieved.

We strongly urge the NTIA to fund this grant application. We sincerely thank you for your consideration on this issue and hope that you recognize the importance of this project as much as we do. Advanced broadband will support current and future public safety and government communications systems. It will provide a higher-quality, higher-capacity, reliable and more secure transport for our key community users, including law enforcement, fire, emergency management and public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick F. Bulawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Derrick F. Bulawa
CEO, BEK Communications Cooperative



Northwest Communications Cooperative

March 10, 2010

DCN, LLC
Attention: Evan Hass
1615 Capitol Way
Bismarck, ND 58501

Mr Hass:

Northwest Communications Cooperative (NCC) is a project partner with Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) in applying for the ARRA BTOP Stimulus BroadbandUSA Recovery Act. This project is designed to have a statewide broadband system to enhance service offerings of critical community facilities, public safety entities, government agencies and all levels of academia.

NCC's participation in this project includes specifically providing fiber to 14 facilities if the grant funds are awarded. These facilities consist of Healthcare Sites, State Radio Sites, State Agencies, and Academia Entities (see attached). NCC's contribution to this project includes a thirty percent match of total construction costs which amounts to \$465,106.

NCC is confident that we are capable of accomplishing our portion of this project within three years. Included are resumes for myself and our Operations Manager, Dean Rustad. Together, we have the resources and capabilities of leading our employees to ensure that this project will be complete within three years. NCC recently built a fiber network in our Epping exchange which consisted of 170 miles of fiber. The plowing commenced on May 13, 2009, and was completed by the end of July. Seventy-five percent of the subscribers were done by the end of the year and all subscribers were cutover to fiber by January 30, 2010. Our contractors are available and willing to work for NCC at a moments notice. CTI works on multiple projects for NCC throughout the year. Multiple boring crews have been capable of 220 miles within two and a half months.

We believe that broadband is an essential communication tool for our State. NCC is committed to partner with DCN in their effort to connect all groups across the State to create the

foundation to spur economic development, empower impoverished regions of the state, create living wage jobs, and enhance quality of life by upgrading the bandwidth infrastructure to overcome the limitations of copper facilities.

Sincerely,



Dwight Schmitt
General Manager/CEO

Enclosures



510 Broadway • P.O. Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

March 22, 2010

NTIA
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

To NTIA Personnel:

As General Manager of Red River Rural Telephone Association in Abercrombie, ND, I fully support Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) application to NTIA for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant.

We've worked as a partner with DCN since 1996. With this BTOP grant, DCN would expand broadband services to healthcare, long-term care, public safety, and governmental facilities throughout rural North Dakota, especially in nearby communities which would provide redundant broadband transport routes for our service area.

Red River Rural Telephone Association currently offers broadband service up to 6 Mbps over fiber and copper cable within its service area. Building out fiber is a slow process as it is expensive to install these facilities in rural, sparsely populated areas. To aid in this broadband expansion, Red River Rural Telephone Association has applied for a last mile BIP application to work in conjunction with DCN's BTOP application. For those areas not included in our BIP application, Red River Rural Telephone Association has committed 30% of capital towards the cost of constructing the proposed facilities located in the nearby community of Wahpeton, ND.

Red River Rural Telephone Association is also applying for a broadband stimulus grant/loan funds under the BIP program (Easygrants ID 4733) which is not dependant on and does not duplicate any area in the DCN BTOP application. DCN's application will greatly enhance Red River Rural Telephone Association's ability to connect its subscribers to the rest of the world with higher bandwidths and better quality bandwidth.

On behalf of the rural subscribers and communities served by Red River Rural Telephone Association, I strongly urge NTIA to consider and accept DCN's application. DCN, in partnership with Red River Rural Telephone Association, is committed to providing rural North Dakota the same expected broadband services you would expect to find in large metropolitan

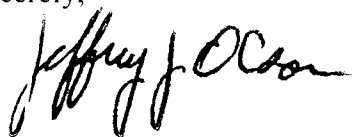
"Your Total Communications Company - Connecting You to the World"

Phone 701-553-8309 • FAX 701-553-8396

areas. This grant would help make those expectations a reality and also promote job growth and opportunities to rural North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration of DCN's application. We look forward to promoting growth and opportunity in North Dakota as part of the NTIA's goal of promoting broadband throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey J. Olson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" at the beginning.

Jeffrey J. Olson
General Manager



P.O. Box 270 / 110 4th St. E. Park River, ND 58270 701.284.7221 www.thinkpolar.com

March 4, 2010

Mr. Evan Haas
Dakota Carrier Network, LLC
PO Box 2484
3901 Great Plains Drive S
Fargo, ND 58104

Dear Evan:

Please consider this correspondence a letter of support for the BTOP grant application of Dakota Carrier Network. It is our understanding that this application is to access grant dollars to serve the facilities listed on the attached worksheet with fiber optic technology. This type of project has the potential to greatly increase the quality of life in these rural areas by expanding the communications capabilities.

Polar Communications has been a partner with Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) since its inception. Accordingly, we have experienced first hand the ability of DCN to provide modern quality service in all areas of North Dakota.

Should grant funds become available to DCN to upgrade these facilities, Polar Communications is committed to assist financially and operationally in the deployment and connection to the DCN network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Dunning".

David Dunning,
General Manager/CEO

Attachment

Project Supporters



West River Telecom

March 22, 2010

Mr. Evan Haas
DCN
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108-2484

Dear Mr. Haas:

This letter is written in support of DCN's application for a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for the purpose of providing middle mile broadband services. Receipt of this grant will greatly enhance DCN's ability to provide the backbone broadband capacity WRT and other rural ILECs need to provide the broadband speeds required by our customers.

WRT currently provides broadband to nearly 100% of its customers and utilizes DCN's network as the middle mile to connect its residential, business and governmental customers to the world. DCN's ability to increase the middle mile capacity will greatly enhance WRT's ability to provide the last mile broadband speeds all of our customers will require in the future.

WRT encourages the NTIA to grant the funds requested by DCN for its middle mile project. This project will enhance the economic viability of the rural areas companies such as WRT serve.

Sincerely,

Mick Grosz
by lmb

Albert "Mick" Grosz
CEO

lmb



February 16, 2010

Mr. Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network
3901 Great Plains Drive South
Fargo, ND 58104

Dear Mr. Evan Hass

This letter of support is to show that IdeaOne is committed to the purpose of the DCN BTOP application for a Middle Mile grant. IdeaOne serves the Fargo area and we will be using our own capitol to build out the areas identified in the application that we serve. IdeaOne and DCN are currently connected and we look forward to expanding our service as new locations are added to the network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Mike Miller
Chief Operating Officer
701-356-6025



Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.
Dickey Rural Services, Inc.
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.

March 25, 2010

To: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

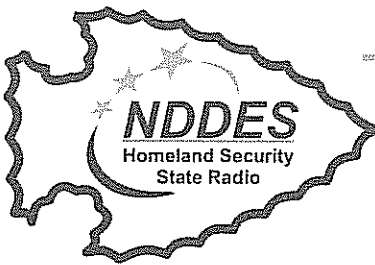
On behalf of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative, I am pleased to write this letter of support for Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) ARRA BTOP application.

As a member owner of DCN we currently serve several critical community entities that would interconnect with the proposed DCN Middle Mile network. Furthermore, we will work with DCN to support the efforts of the project to achieve its goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff T. Wilson".

Jeff T. Wilson
General Manager
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
PO Box 69
Ellendale, ND 58436



ND Department of Emergency Services

PO Box 5511

Tel: (701) 328-8100

Email: nddes@nd.gov

Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

Fax: (701) 328-8181

Website: www.nd.gov/des

"Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans"

DCN, LLC
Attn: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

I strongly support the application by Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) to obtain ARRA BTOP Stimulus BroadbandUSA grant funding. Due to the significant rural composition of North Dakota, the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Broadband Project will greatly enhance public safety.

The North Dakota Department of Emergency Service's Division of State Radio provides public safety responders a statewide communication system utilizing 36 towers located across the state which connect to a central dispatch center in Bismarck. The state's tower infrastructure provides voice communication, paging, and wireless data transfer into the mobile data terminals (MDT) used by law enforcement.

The current communication system is extremely limited by the data speed. The slow, time-consuming transfer of pictures, i.e. missing individuals, wanted individuals, stolen property, and cellular pictures is totally impractical for use by public safety officials who require fast information retrieval to efficiently and effectively perform their duties. State Radio recently partnered with the North Dakota Highway Patrol to implement a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Because current data speed will not support data transfer of the new system, the Highway Patrol purchased commercial cellular data services to fill the gap. However, cellular system capability only exists along the state highway system and is not available in most rural areas.

Updating the state tower's existing copper analog and T1 services to fiber is an absolute necessity to transfer data at the higher speeds required by CAD and future improvements in technology. Public safety practitioners are requesting access to an ever increasing amount of information that is unavailable through current technology.

The State of North Dakota is developing a plan to support Next Generation 911. At this time, there are 22 public safety answering points (PSAPs) that will require a broadband/fiber network to support the Next Generation 911 models.

Improvements to State Radio tower infrastructure has been negated by the expense of connecting fiber lines to remote locations. This project will drastically improve data speed which is integral for North Dakota to move forward with installation of new and emerging technologies.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. SPRYNCZYNATYK
Major General, NDARNG
The Adjutant General

John Hoeven
Governor

Major General David Sprynczynatyk
Director - Department of Emergency Services

Greg M. Wilz
Director - Division of Homeland Security

Mike Lynk
Director - Division of State Radio

KENT CONRAD
NORTH DAKOTA

website: <http://conrad.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

March 1, 2010

Administrator Jonathan Adelstein
Rural Utilities Services
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrators Adelstein and Strickling:

As you begin the selection process for the second round of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants and loans, I want to take a moment to urge you to consider very carefully the applications you receive from applicants seeking funding for projects to expand broadband service in North Dakota.

Broadband Internet access is vital to communities' education and health care systems, and can promote business and economic growth. While the number of households with access to high-speed Internet has dramatically increased in recent years, a growing "digital divide" between rural and urban areas has begun to appear. That can have serious consequences for rural areas.

The ability of rural users to access state-of-the-art broadband Internet is critically important to the future of rural America. Without access to the same level of Internet service offered to individuals and companies located in urban areas, rural America can't compete. Broadband service helps to improve the economic vitality of rural communities and increases opportunities by leveling the playing field for small businesses, farm families, and other rural residents.

I was proud that Congress provided \$7.2 billion in funding for broadband deployment loans and grants in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is clear that the Congressional intent for this funding was to extend broadband service to underserved and unserved areas throughout the country – and to rural areas in particular. I hope you will keep this in mind as you give full consideration to all applicants that seek funding to expand service in North Dakota.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

1-800-223-4457

630 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403
(702) 224-2043

220 EAST ROSSEY AVENUE, ROOM 228
BISMARCK, ND 58501-3866
(701) 258-4648

657 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 306
FARGO, ND 58102-4727
(701) 232-8030

33 SOUTH 3RD STREET, SUITE B
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
(701) 776-9601

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105
MINOT, ND 58701-3046
(701) 852-0703



Information Technology Department

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept 112 • Bismarck, ND 58505 • (701) 328-3190

March 12, 2010

Evan Hass
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

As the Health Information Technology (HIT) Director, appointed by the HIT Advisory Committee, for the State of North Dakota, I am writing a letter of support for the Dakota Carrier Network's application for the broadband infrastructure in North Dakota

The vision of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee is to implement a statewide health information technology and exchange infrastructure. Our mission is to facilitate the adoption and use of health information technology and exchange to improve healthcare quality, patient safety and overall efficiency of healthcare and public health services in North Dakota.

To meet our vision and mission it is very important that we have the necessary infrastructure to quickly, reliably and efficiently share information between healthcare providers, payers and state agencies within the state. Today, this enhanced infrastructure is not available in all communities because of distance, cost or outdated system components.

Additionally, the advent of the Medicare and Medicaid incentive/disincentive programs greatly increases the need for providers to share information because of the required usage of electronic medical records and the health information exchange. This will require more robust hardware and software to handle the amount of data shared over the infrastructure. As these systems become more relied upon, it will also be imperative that the infrastructure is reliable to ensure that it is available at all times. Through this opportunity, Dakota Carrier Network will be able to address these concerns.

Upgrading and expanding the capabilities of the broadband infrastructure is a vital component of meeting our vision and mission. However, it ultimately is needed to improve the healthcare quality, patient safety and overall efficiency of healthcare and public services in North Dakota.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheldon H. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheldon H. Wolf
HIT Director

NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
The Vital Link to a Brighter Future

March 11, 2010

DCN, LLC
ATTN: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass,

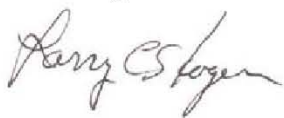
We are writing in support of Dakota Carrier Network's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) Broadband Project. As representatives from the State's five community colleges, we have a vested interest in North Dakota's broadband infrastructures.

North Dakota is a rural state with low population and large geographic distances. As a result, our community colleges have a significant investment in distance learning applications. We depend on interactive video conferencing, streaming video, and on-line learning and collaborative technologies to deliver courses to K-12 education and our students. In addition, we partner with and provide workforce training to healthcare, public safety, and other community facilities across the state.

It is critical that all education, healthcare, and public safety facilities have high-speed broadband access. Many of the K-12 schools that desire to use our services have limited broadband access that limits our ability to deliver multimedia-enriched content. The majority of our long-term care facilities have no connectivity. This greatly reduces the ability to interact in health sciences education and inhibits our workforce training initiatives with regard to the use of electronic medical record technologies and medical record imaging.

In closing, broadband access is vital to North Dakota communities' education and health care systems, and is critically important to the future of rural America.

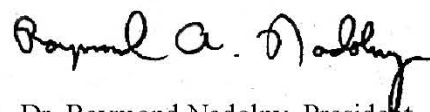
Sincerely,



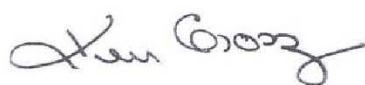
Dr. Larry Skogen, President
Bismarck State College



Dr. Mike Bower, President
Lake Region State College



Dr. Raymond Nadolny, President
Williston State College



Dr. Ken Grosz, Campus Dean
Dakota College at Bottineau

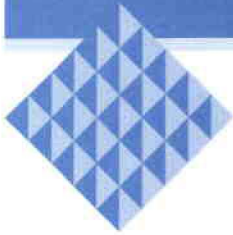


Dr. John Richman, President
North Dakota State College of Science

g:\erry\goetz\letters\letters of support 3-11-10.docx

State Capitol - 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 215, Bismarck ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.328.2960 Fax: 701.328.2961 E-mail: NDUS.office@ndus.edu Web: www.ndus.edu

The North Dakota University System is governed by the State Board of Higher Education and includes:
Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Dickinson State University • Lake Region State College • Mayville State University • Minot State University •
North Dakota State College of Science • North Dakota State University • University of North Dakota • Valley City State University • Williston State College



North Dakota Educational Technology Council

1510 12th Avenue North
P.O. Box 5036
Fargo, ND 58105-5036

Phone: 701.231.6032
Fax: 701.231.6050

dan.pullen@sendit.nodak.edu

www.ndetc.k12.nd.us

March 10, 2010

Dear Mr. Hass,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the support of the North Dakota Educational Technology Council to Dakota Carrier Network's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant application. The ND ETC coordinates technology in K-12 schools in our state and we rely on DCN for connectivity to all our schools through a statewide contract. Increased bandwidth and network speed is a pressing need in our state.

Most of North Dakota's schools are small and rural and the need for better connectivity increases each year. Demographic shifts have resulted in smaller schools with limited resources. The most critical resource need is for highly qualified teachers for most high school courses. Math and science teachers are scarce and small schools cannot afford to hire all the teachers they need to teach all the courses students need. The use of distance education through video and online delivery is the only way these smaller schools can deliver a comprehensive high school curriculum to their students. Many small schools now have two video classrooms to accommodate their need for high school courses taught by highly qualified teachers.

In addition to distance education, all of our state's schools rely on network connectivity for an increasing number of applications which are essential to the way our schools operate. All schools use a common student information system which is hosted by ITD in Bismarck. Hourly and daily operational transactions with that system are critical to running our state's schools. Additional school data systems are planned for the near future and a robust and reliable network are required to make these new tools efficient and effective for schools.

The relationships among schools and between schools and state agencies continue to grow and expand every year. We need DCN's network bandwidth and speed to grow along with these increasing educational needs.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to make sure DCN has a 21st century network available to serve our schools in preparing students for their future.

Dan Pullen, Director
DanPullen@nd.gov
www.ndetc.k12.nd.us



North Dakota Department of Transportation

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.
Director

John Hoeven
Governor

March 12, 2010

Mr. Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network, LLC
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

Subject: Letter of Support Concerning ARRA BTOP Stimulus BroadbandUSA

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is in full support of the proposed broadband infrastructure expansion which would extend fiber to our public service endpoints. The need for increased network speed is becoming a necessity with the advancement of today's technology. Monitoring and maintaining many of these endpoints requires instant, ready access to support the traveling public. Those endpoints consist of:

1. Radio Towers
2. Dynamic Message Boards (fixed and portable)
3. Visitor Information Centers and Surveillance Cameras
4. Public Viewing Cameras (web enabled)

Currently, the NDDOT has 40 radio towers positioned throughout the state, providing emergency response and enforcement-related radio communications between state and federal agencies. These towers are maintained by existing copper put in place in the 1960s which provides very low data speeds. Public agencies are dependent on the use of these towers for communication during normal day-to-day operations as well as during emergency situations.

Dynamic Message Boards are used to provide the public instant visual information of the current situation in a specific area. Amber alerts, road closures, and travel advisories are just some of the ways these boards inform the public. Since North Dakota is a rural state and has limited connectivity, many of these boards are required to be operated and programmed by dial-up access or physically driving to each site. Fiber to these sites would greatly enhance the functionality of these devices and alert the public in a timely manner.

Mr. Evan Hass
Page 2
March 12, 2010

Today, the NDDOT provides limited Wi-Fi at all of our Visitor Information Centers to support the travelling public through existing copper. In addition, the majority of these sites were constructed with surveillance cameras to deter vandals and provide additional security. Since we are a rural state and high speed connectivity is unavailable, all of our sites were outfitted with a Digital Video Recorder (DVR), which will capture the event, but only after it's been reported and investigated. Ideally, these cameras would be connected to a network operations center, reporting real-time events (i.e. the increasing possibility of actually saving a life instead of recording one taken).

Last of all, the NDDOT is limited in the number of public viewing cameras showing roadway conditions which is becoming more and more expected by our travelers. Because of the location, the majority of our roadway cameras are either cellular or dial-up, giving us image gaps ranging between 15 minutes to an hour. This delay can give communities false hope when determining their travel plans which can lead to unsafe traveling decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis G. Ziegler".

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.
Director

01/jam



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

OFFICE OF STATE HEALTH OFFICER
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 301
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200
www.ndhealth.gov



March 17, 2010

DCN, LLC
Attention: Evan Hass
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

The ND Department of Health would like to add our support to Dakota Carrier Network's CCI Broadband Project as they look to upgrade the broadband infrastructure throughout our state. North Dakota's public health needs are diverse and the need from broadband connectivity is in great demand. The state, county and local health officials' increasing use of technology to respond to health emergencies and other natural disasters will benefit greatly from high speed broadband connectivity around the state.

The implementation of new real-time data collection systems, that aid in the decision making process during emergencies, will only work if those systems are supported by a solid network that allows "up to the minute" reporting. We have had several issues in the past directly related to the county and local officials' inability to make a broadband connection to the state network.

Our technology needs going forward are centered on web-based technologies that require high-speed, dependable, broadband network connectivity to ensure we are providing adequate services to the people of North Dakota. Without that connectivity, our systems will fail.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, CPH
State Health Officer

TLD:lrr

Physicians Dedicated to the Health of North Dakota



**NORTH DAKOTA
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

1622 East Interstate Avenue
Post Office Box 1198
Bismarck, North Dakota
58502-1198

(701) 223-9475
Fax (701) 223-9476
www.ndmed.org

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Minot
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A. Michael Booth, MD
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Vice President
Council Chair

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Robert W. Beattie, MD
Grand Forks
AMA Alternate Delegate

Bruce Levi
Executive Director

Dean Haas
General Counsel

Leann Tschider
Director of Membership
Office Manager

Annette Weigel
Administrative Assistant

March 15, 2010

Sheldon Wolf
ND Health Information Technology Director
600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept 112
Bismarck, ND 58505-0100

Dear Mr. Wolf,

On behalf of the North Dakota Medical Association, I offer this letter in support of Dakota Carrier (DNC) Network's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Broadband Project, which proposes to upgrade and expand the capabilities of broadband infrastructure throughout the state of North Dakota. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents and medical students.

The North Dakota Medical Association is an active participant in the state's Health Information Technology Advisory Committee as well as other initiatives as the state works toward an HIT solution that may include telemedicine, teleradiology, teledermatology, telepharmacy, practice management systems, disease registries, clinical messaging, electronic health records (EHR) and health information exchanges (HIE) to improve access to healthcare and records for all healthcare entities. All of these services require access to broadband and connectivity to each entity across the state or a central database. *Without adequate broadband, these services may not perform properly or will be drastically limited in function and efficiency.* Current copper facilities will not support many of these emergency and non-emergency medical services due to copper's limited broadband capacity.

In order to position North Dakota's medical community to migrate to support electronic medical records, we support DCN's proposal to create a virtual private Healthcare Network for 231 healthcare entities by creating a designated 10 gigabit Ethernet (GE) backbone dedicated to North Dakota's healthcare industry. Healthcare entities and the state will then have the necessary secure bandwidth for their services and connectivity to their centralized servers and databases. Some healthcare sites in North Dakota are already being served by a fiber based connection, and they too can be part of the DCN transport network or the Healthcare Network.

Please let me know if you need additional information or have questions regarding the North Dakota Medical Association's support for the DCN application.

Sincerely,

Bruce Levi



AARP North Dakota
107 W. Main Avenue
Suite 125
Bismarck, ND 58501

T 1-866-554-5383
F 701-255-2242
TTY 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org/nd

March 12, 2010

DCN, LLC
ATTN: Evan Hass
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

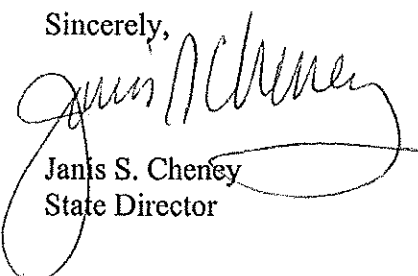
Greetings,

I write to express the support of AARP ND for DCN's ARRA BTOP Stimulus BroadbandUSA Grant Application. AARP ND recognizes the critical importance of a statewide broadband system for our rural state. We are particularly interested in the components of the grant that will support Medical, Healthcare and Long-Term Care services in North Dakota.

Use of electronic health records will benefit consumers and we anticipate working with providers and others to educate the public about these advantages as the projects move ahead. If we are to achieve the goal of electronic health records that are secure yet accessible when needed for diagnosis and treatment, our current bandwidth infrastructure must be upgraded.

The plans provided by DCN outline a collaborative approach that should serve our state and its citizens well.

Sincerely,



Janis S. Cheney
State Director



John Hoeven, Governor
Douglass A. Prchal, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363

E-mail parkrec@state.nd.us

March 15, 2010

DCN, LLC
ATTN: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

RE: DCN CCI Broadband Project - Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Hass:

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department submits this "Letter of Support" for the above referenced project. Our agency role and responsibility establishes, in a statewide approach, provide outdoor recreation experiences for our residents and visitors to the state of North Dakota.

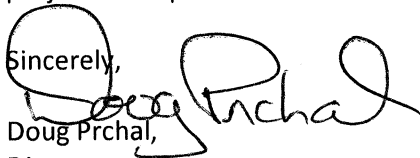
That mission is carried out from a central office serving as the support arm of a system of parks and outdoor recreation lands disbursed across the state in 15 distinct offices. Those parks and recreation operations rely on dependable connectivity to the central office and for public access to information in the context of quality of life and also public safety.

The public safety component of the department is to provide safe, accessible recreation experience. In the majority of cases the state parks and recreation lands do not have cell service. Accordingly park infrastructure is antiquated causing interrupted service from external offices to the central office. On line services to the public may be satisfied at the central office and on the web, however, getting those visitor reservations and public information requests to the parks is not reliable with a down system. Desktop support from the central office is challenging when connectivity is disrupted or down also.

Park staff is licensed peace officers and part of the first responder network with local jurisdictions and accordingly need reliable connectivity for those contacts. In the event of storms, floods and other types of natural disasters effecting public safety, our connectivity is limited. Also, in emergencies, connections are critical for notice to the Web EOC. Reliability of our phone and computer connections are limited.

For these reasons we support the efforts for broadband connections to state agencies as outlined in the project descriptions and write this letter of support toward that effort.

Sincerely,


Doug Prchal,
Director

.....
Play in our backyard!



March 10, 2010

Dakota Carrier Network, LLC
PO Box 2484
Fargo, North Dakota 58108

ATTN: Evan Hass

Dear Mr. Hass,

As Chief Executive Officer of the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc in North Dakota I am submitting this letter in support of the application from DCN for the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application.

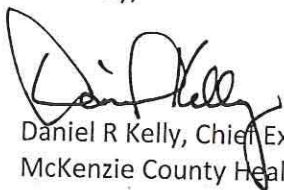
In 2010 the McKenzie County Healthcare System will invest roughly one million dollars into electronic medical records software systems. This programming will run off servers physically located in Rugby, North Dakota as we are part of a consortium of 10 North Dakota healthcare facilities known as NWAIT.

Given the critical nature of our operations, the significant capital investment and the geographic distance where our servers are housed it is imperative that we have robust connectivity. At present we are serviced with copper wire technology that is slow and marginally reliable.

At times we literally have transmissions which are dropped from the system. We also experience inordinately long wait times when communicating by way of the internet between our four facilities within Watford City, North Dakota. With the heightened reliance upon an electronic medical record and the significant emphasis placed upon our ability to communicate patient results to tertiary facilities we must have a high speed, reliable transmission pipeline for our data.

As an appointed member of the North Dakota HIT Advisory Committee and Chief Executive Officer of the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. I give my wholehearted endorsement to the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application. Without this funding my facility has not hope of securing reasonable connectivity before 2013.

Sincerely,



Daniel R Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc.

Cc: Sheldon Wolf, HIT Director - ITD

March 10, 2010

DCN, LLC
Attn: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Mr. Hass:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) for the Dakota Carrier Network's Comprehensive community Infrastructure Broadband Project. NDLTCA represents 162 long term care facilities which include skilled nursing facilities, basic care facilities and assisted living facilities throughout the state of North Dakota. Our members are in urban and rural areas and every corner and across the state. To connect our facilities with broadband would be beneficial for our members and the residents/tenants we serve.

NDLTCA is a professional association of long term care and community service providers who enhance the lives of people we serve through collaboration, education and advocacy is our mission. Keeping our members connected electronically will help them improve on the quality of life for the vulnerable North Dakotans they serve.

NDLTCA is a member of the North Dakota Health Information Advisory Committee whose vision is to implement a statewide health information technology and exchange infrastructure. Their mission is to facilitate the adoption and use of health information technology and exchange to improve healthcare quality, patient safety and overall efficiency of healthcare and public health services in North Dakota. Upgrading and expanding capabilities of broadband infrastructure throughout the state of North Dakota will help us achieve our goals to share information electronically among our providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support of their proposal.

Sincerely,

Shelly Peterson
Shelly Peterson
President

SEP/pjt



March 11, 2010

Evan Hass
P.O. Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

Re: DCN's CCI Broadband Project

Dear Mr. Hass,

I am writing this letter in support of DCN's application for funding to support the broadband infrastructure in North Dakota.

The mission of North Dakota Health Care Review, Inc., the state's CMS-designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), is to continuously improve the quality of health care services to the people of our state. Distance, weather, and remote populations are significant barriers to maintaining access to high quality health care in our state. Teleradiology, telepharmacy, increased adoption of electronic medical records, and health information exchanges provide solutions to many of these challenges, but we need the bandwidth, capacity, and equipment to support this critical infrastructure.

Our organization is engaged in helping providers adopt health information technology through our work as the QIO, and as technical field staff for the new Regional Extension Centers. We are also active participants in the North Dakota HIT Advisory Committee. The demands on our networks and systems will increase significantly as more and more of our health care providers participate in these health information technology advances. Securing the resources offered by this funding opportunity is key to maintaining a high quality health care system in North Dakota.

I strongly support this application.

Sincerely,

Barbara Groutt
Chief Executive Officer

**Vision**

The North Dakota Healthcare Association will take an active leadership role in major healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Healthcare Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

March 10, 2010

DCN, LLC
ATTN: Evan Hass
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 5810

Re: DCN's CCI Broadband Project

Dear Mr. Hass;

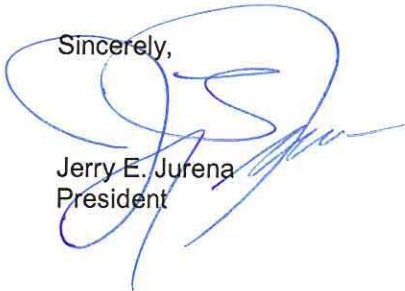
As President of the North Dakota Hospital Association I am strong supporter of advancing the broadband infrastructure within every community in North Dakota.

Several years ago the Department of Health and the Hospital Association in North Dakota jointly entered in to an agreement to install a T-1 line into every hospital within the state for management of disasters. The Association and the Hospitals are allowed to use the system when there are no disasters for educational purposes; however, the use is limited to other activities. I have been asked if there is a way to expand the current broadband system; an expanded system with unlimited use would be as asset to the state at all levels. We have seen the possibilities and know that if there was an expanded system that was open for multiple applications and/or uses we could enhance access to health care and education. A statewide system avail to all communities and businesses would provide a level of service that is not available at this time.

I believe that a statewide system would also enhance economic growth across the state as well in all industries and manufacturing. Communications is vital in any business application and one issue we have is distance between individuals and organizations. Travel can stymie either ideas or access on a daily basis. Employment could be expanded to all areas within the state as a result of improved communications.

I am a supporter of an expanded broadband system that will be capable of multiple uses and reaches across all business, communities and or service organizations.

Sincerely,



Jerry E. Jurena
President



Executive Office

(701) 328-1814
Fax (701) 328-1545
Toll Free 1-800-472-2622
ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888

John Hoeven, Governor
Carol K. Olson, Executive Director

March 11, 2010

Mr. Evan Hass
Dakota Carrier Network, LLC
PO Box 2484
Fargo, ND 58108

RE: Letter of Support, BTOP Stimulus Broadband USA Application

Dear Mr. Hass,

The North Dakota Department of Human Services is pleased to support and encourage the efforts of Dakota Carrier Network to advance the broadband infrastructure of North Dakota communities. The public and private partnership represented in your Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) Broadband Project demonstrates the type of cooperative spirit essential to promote service delivery and economic viability in rural North Dakota.

By building a network infrastructure which will facilitate health information exchange for all providers, I believe your CCI project will provide a significant opportunity to improve health outcomes for North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol K. Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Olson" clearly distinguishable.

Carol K. Olson
Executive Director

22 Pages
withheld in their entirety
pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4
(5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Key Metrics Dashboard

Please refer to the CCI Grant Guidelines for instructions on completing this form.

Applicant Profile	
Applicant Name	DCN, LLC
Title	DCN's CCI Broadband Project
Easygrants ID	4278
Headquarters	Fargo, ND
Size (2009 Data) of Applicant Entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • Employees: 15
Technology Type	100% Fiber based Carrier Ethernet Service
Key Partners	BEK Communications Cooperative, Consolidated Telcom, Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative, Intercommunity Telephone Company, Midstate Telephone Company, Moore & Liberty Telephone Company, North Dakota Telephone Company, Northwest Communications Cooperative, Polar Telecommunications, Red River Telephone, Reservation Telephone Cooperative, SRT Communications Inc., United Telephone, Griggs County Telephone, State of North Dakota Information Technology Department

Project Economics			
Budget Information		Project Financials	
Project Budget	\$15,401,653	Project Revenues (Yr 8)	[REDACTED]
Federal Contribution (%)	70%	Net Income and Margin (Yr 8)	[REDACTED]
Cash Match Amount (%)	30%	EBITDA and Margin (Yr 8)	[REDACTED]
In Kind Match Amount (%)	NA	Rate of Return (w/o BTOP Funds)	[REDACTED]
Middle Mile/Last Mile Budget Allocation		Rate of Return (w/ BTOP Funds)	[REDACTED]
Middle Mile Percentage (%)	100%	Cost Efficiency	
Last Mile Percentage (%)	0%	Cost per Mile (MM)	[REDACTED]
Rural Last Mile Percentage	NA	Cost per Household (LM)	NA

Market Territory	
Geographic Area(s)	The State of North Dakota.
Middle Mile Network Composition	
Total Proposed Network Miles (MM only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Miles: 5846.5 • Backbone Miles: 1,388 (Including existing wavelengths and new wavelength on 1318 leased miles) • Lateral Miles: 4458.5
New Construction Network Miles (MM only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Miles: NA • Backbone Miles: NA • Lateral Miles: 169.5
Existing Applicant Network Miles Utilized (MM only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Miles: NA • Backbone Miles: 70 • Lateral Miles: 4289

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Key Metrics Dashboard

Leased Network Miles Utilized (MM only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Miles: 1,318 Backbone Miles: [REDACTED] (Adding Wavelength on existing [REDACTED] leased facilities) Lateral Miles: NA
Underserved/Unserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Backbone Miles in Underserved/Unserved Areas: 90% Percentage of Lateral Miles in Underserved/Unserved Areas: 51%
Existing Customer Base	
Existing Residential/Individual Customers within PFSA	0
Existing Business Customers within PFSA	0
Existing Community Anchor Institution Customers within PFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total CAI's: [REDACTED] Community Colleges: [REDACTED] Public Safety Entities: [REDACTED]
Existing Third Party Service Provider Customers within PFSA	2,544
Potential Customer Base	
Market Potential Households (within PFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total HH's: [REDACTED] Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: [REDACTED]
Market Potential Businesses (within PFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Businesses: [REDACTED] Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: [REDACTED]
Market Potential Community Anchor Institutions (within PFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total CAI's: [REDACTED] Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: [REDACTED] Community Colleges: [REDACTED] Public Safety Entities: [REDACTED]
Market Potential Third Party Service Providers (within PFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Third Party Service Providers in PFSA: 23 Expressing Commitment or Letter of Interest: 17
Funded Network Coverage	
Households Connected to Network (via BTOP Funds by end of Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Households Connected: 0 Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: 0
Businesses Connected to Network (via BTOP Funds by end of Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Businesses Connected: 0 Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: 0
Community Anchor Institutions Directly Connected (via BTOP Funds by end of Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Directly Connected CAI's: [REDACTED] Located in Underserved/Unserved Areas: [REDACTED] Community Colleges: [REDACTED] Public Safety Entities: [REDACTED]

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Key Metrics Dashboard

Projected Subscribers by Year Five	<p><u>Directly Served by Applicant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Anchor Institutions: [REDACTED] Institutions • Households: NA • Businesses: NA • Third Party Service Providers: [REDACTED] <p><u>Served by Proposed Network Via Third Party Service Provider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Anchor Institutions: 108 Institutions (by DCN through Project Partners) • Households: NA • Businesses: NA
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Other	
Proposed MM Network Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backbone: 10 Gbps • Laterals: 1 Gbps
Proposed LM Network Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest offered speed tier: 100 Mbps • Estimated Average speed for highest speed tier: 100 Mbps
Total Points of Interconnection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Pol's: Three • Pol's in Underserved/Unserved Areas: Not Applicable • Environmentally-controlled, non-passive Pols: Three
Jobs Created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Job-years: 107 • Indirect Job-years: Included in Direct Job Years • Induced Job-years: 60
Required Time for Project Completion (Number of Required Quarters to Fully Build-out and Test Network and Make Ready for Commercial Service)	Twelve Quarters