



Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium

Government & Key Partnerships

Letters of Support

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U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
U.S. Representative Zack Space (OH-18)
Governor Ted Strickland
U.S. Representative Charlie Wilson (OH-06)

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Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Cathy Collins-Taylor
Tuscarawas County Sheriff Walter Wilson

Other Governmental Agencies:

OH Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Chillicothe Director Jeffrey Gering
Ohio Health Information Partnership Board Chair Amy Andres

Institutions of Higher Education:

Rio Grande University & Community College
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Institutions of Higher Education (con't):

Washington State Community College
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Ohio University
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Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education
Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (Represents K-12 school districts)

Economic Development:

Progress Alliance
Scioto County Economic Development Office (under the Scioto County Board of Commissioners)
Jackson County Economic Development Board
Eastern Ohio Development Alliance
The Vaughan Agency, for-profit small business
Belmont County Department of Development Community Improvement Corporation

County & Municipality Government:

Pike County Board of Commissioners
Athens County Board of Commissioners
Vinton County Board of Commissioners
Fayette County Board of Commissioners
Highland County Board of Commissioners
Hocking County Board of Commissioners
Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Perry County Board of Commissioners
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Ross County Board of Commissioners
Adams County Board of Commissioners
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Belmont County Board of Commissioners
Brown County Board of Commissioners
Carroll County Board of Commissioners
Clermont County Board of Commissioners



County & Municipality Government (con't):

Columbiana County Board of Commissioners

Coshocton County Board of Commissioners

Guernsey County Board of Commissioners

Harrison County Board of Commissioners

Holmes County Board of Commissioners

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

Meigs County Board of Commissioners

Muskingum County Board of Commissioners

Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners

Washington County Board of Commissioners

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2010

Assistant Secretary Strickling
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As your agency considers Round 2 applications for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) as funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, it is my pleasure to strongly support the proposal "Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium" (CAO-MMC), submitted by Horizon Telcom.

Horizon Telcom is a rural, independent telephone company located in the heart of Appalachian Ohio with an existing 13-county fiber broadband network and 115 years of service to the region. Horizon's sub-applicant, the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), is operated by the Ohio Board of Regents and is serving our state's community colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and many other community anchors.

The proposed service area is comprised of 34 counties in South Eastern Ohio, covering 17,000 square miles. Nearly sixty percent of the area is unserved by broadband providers. Without adequate broadband service, the region is at a significant disadvantage in providing the necessary educational, infrastructure, and economic development resources to the nearly two million Ohioans that reside in the area.

The proposal has unwavering support in the region, largely due to the unfortunate disadvantages the region has experienced because of non-existent or insufficient broadband service. It is my understanding that the proposal includes 25 area community colleges, 14 universities, 223 health care facilities, 34, industrial parks, 32 Multi-Agency Radio Communications towers, a VA hospital, and 5 outpatient clinics. The proposal's cash match and in-kind commitments further emphasize the unprecedented partnerships that have developed in the spirit of obtaining broadband service for Appalachia.

As the NTIA reviews the application, I am confident that you will find that the objectives of the CAO-MMC proposal are closely aligned with the goals of the BTOP program. With 31 of the 34 counties classified as "Economically Distressed Areas", the dire need for adequate broadband service cannot be overemphasized.

I urge the NTIA to give serious consideration to the CAO-MMC application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support broadband infrastructure in rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

ZACK SPACE
18TH DISTRICT, OHIO

315 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6265

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3518

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY
AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTIONS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

March 26, 2010

Assistant Secretary Strickling
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I wish to submit the below comments in support of the Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium (CAO-MMC):

The CAO-MMC provides a comprehensive plan addressing a 16,998 square mile area, 59% of which remains unserved by any form of broadband service. 31 of the proposal's 34 counties are underserved in their entirety with little or no choice available in carriers or services. The proposed CAO-MMC network is forward-thinking and sustainable, able to fully achieve the national policy objectives for targeted communities in Appalachian Ohio. Further, the plan can serve as a national model for much of rural America, particularly economically distressed regions with low population densities.

Arguably, the future of the U.S. economy depends on our ability to compete in modern, high-tech industries. The broadband deficit in Southern and Eastern Ohio has already distinctly disadvantaged the regions. Every day that passes without broadband, the Americans in these communities fall further and further behind.

The need for broadband across Ohio and the nation has been an issue I have put at the forefront of my efforts in Congress since coming to Washington. As a champion of the effort to include rural broadband funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, I am optimistic about the possibilities for rural America to benefit from future broadband expansion. To achieve the policy objectives of the ARRA, we must focus on the unserved areas of the country as our first priority. CAO-MMC puts the unserved front and center while also addressing the need for metropolitan-class broadband in rural towns and villages.

I have worked with the leadership of the CAO-MMC to help develop and promote their project. I continue to support the plan fully and anxiously await the day I can report to my constituents in the 18th District and the other citizens across the 34-county region that this essential answer is finally in place.

Sincerely,



Zack Space
Member of Congress

Cc: Bill McKell, President & CEO, Horizon Telcom
Pankaj Shah, Executive Director, OARnet



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
- Heath 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

CHARLIE WILSON
6TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

REGIONAL WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3506

CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS
EXECUTIVE BOARD

HOUSE RURAL HEALTH CARE
COALITION (RHCC)

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S
CAUCUS

March 23, 2010

Assistant Secretary Strickling
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my support of the Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium (CAO-MMC) BTOP CCI application that is currently pending.

As you know, broadband access remains limited in many of the Ohio's rural areas, especially those federally designated as Appalachia. Lack of access harms economic growth and limits educational opportunities. With the economy still weak, providing jobs and attracting new businesses by extending high speed internet into under-served areas is just common sense.

The CAO-MMC provides a comprehensive plan addressing a 17,000 square mile area, which 31 out of 34 counties qualify as underserved and 59% of which remains un-served by any form of broadband service. The progressive and sustainable components of the project fully achieve the national policy objectives for targeted Southern and Eastern Ohio communities.

I understand the importance of technology and communication in our modern economy, which is why I strongly support this important project and the other pending project that the State has put forth. Thank you for your attention to this application. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or my staffer Anne Sokolov at 202-225-5705, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress

Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Ted Strickland, *Governor*
Hugh Quill, *Director*
H. Samuel Orth, III, *State Chief Information Officer*

Office of Information Technology 614.644.6446 voice
Office of the State CIO 614.644.9382 fax
30 E. Broad Street, 39th Floor www.das.ohio.gov
Columbus, Ohio 43215



March 16, 2010

Bill McKell
CEO
Horizon Telcom
68 East Main Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Dear Mr. McKell:

The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) recently released the State CIO priorities for 2010. Broadband was ranked highly by CIO's across the country, specifically, the expansion of broadband to strengthen statewide connectivity. I agreed with this ranking as the official Ohio representative to NASCIO.

The State recognizes the importance and tremendous benefit that broadband availability and access brings to our communities and is committed to supporting digital inclusion of all Ohioans. To that end the State of Ohio owns 129 towers that are the backbone of our Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) infrastructure. MARCS was built to support statewide interoperable communications for first responders. MARCS customers include multiple state agencies and over 700 federal and local agencies (i.e. Highway Patrol, Rehabilitation & Corrections, county EMA, county sheriffs, local fire departments, etc.).

The State is contemplating leveraging this strategic asset to support government wireless connectivity. The MARCS towers are currently connected back to the central core through T-1 lines. It would be necessary for the towers to be connected by fiber to support this goal. A fiber middle mile would provide the capacity essential to support public safety as well as additional state government services. This also comes at a time when the current MARCS system is reaching end of life and an upgrade is necessary.

A wireless government network could sustain connectivity for a mobile state workforce, rural state facilities, local government, education and public safety. It could also be leveraged by agencies to support travel and tourism in our state parks. The towers are also available for co-location by private entities that provide last mile broadband services to residents and businesses.

The State is not applying for broadband infrastructure funding through ARRA BTOP and BIP programs but is looking forward to potentially engaging with entities such as Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium that are successful in their grant applications to meet our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Samuel Orth, III".

H. Samuel Orth, III
State Chief Information Officer/
Assistant Director

Cc: Pankaj Shah, OARnet

- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

1970 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 182081
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2081
(614) 466-2550
www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

March 26, 2010

CEO Bill McKell
Horizon Telcom
68 East Main Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Re: Letter of Support for the Public Safety Benefits of the Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium (CAO-MMC)

Dear Mr. McKell:

As the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), I oversee Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Investigative Unit, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office.

For my staff and regional offices, broadband is our primary tool for saving lives, responding to emergencies, coordinating disaster management and protecting against terrorist attacks. Public safety efforts in the rural areas of our state are at a distinct disadvantage because of limited broadband access and capacity. That is why I am writing to voice enthusiastic support for your Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium (CAO-MMC) proposal.

The CAO-MMC plan to connect the main 911 Public Safety Answering Points in each of the proposal's 34 counties to its redundant fiber network will facilitate emergency response coordination within the county, region, state and even nation. Fiber broadband speeds can shave minutes off police, fire and EMT response times.

In addition, the CAO-MMC will provide fiber backhaul services to 34 Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) towers at the same price we are currently paying for inferior T-1 lines. Ohio Chief Information Officer Sam Orth has demonstrated his support that this increased capacity will support government wireless activity. From a public safety perspective, this will significantly improve the communication capacity of rural first responders – allowing voice, video and data/text communication from the road.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Quick, coordinated communication is the key to improving public safety in rural southern and eastern Ohio. I appreciate your commitment to run fiber to the region's 911 centers and MARCS towers, and I fully support your CCI application for BTOP funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Collins-Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Collins-Taylor
Director

Cc: Pankaj Shah, Executive Director, OARnet
Darryl Anderson, Program Administrator/MARCS



March 26, 2010

Bill McKell, CEO
Horizon Telcom
68 East Main Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Subject: Letter of Support for "Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium"

Dear CEO McKell:

The Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office strongly supports the "Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium." Currently, our area is hindered by its lack of broadband access. While broadband access has been established throughout the urban areas, Appalachian Ohio remains largely underserved. This lack of service greatly affects how public safety agencies, such as ours, communicate.

Public safety agencies, specifically law enforcement, use information in order to prevent criminal behavior, solve crimes and enhance officer safety. However, the transmittal of that information has changed dramatically in the past three decades. Today's technology of computer-aided dispatch systems, records management systems and radio systems allow public safety entities to communicate more quickly and efficiently. However, these systems often function in isolation and information cannot always be exchanged in our area even though the technology is available to do it. "Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium" will greatly assist us with our efforts to improve communication interoperability by connecting 9-1-1 PSAPs throughout Appalachian Ohio. Broadband access will provide the necessary infrastructure in order to transmit vital information such as real-time photos of suspects during a crime-in-progress. While our need for information has not changed, the speed in which we need it has.

Our office fully supports all efforts to bring broadband access to Appalachian Ohio. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter R. Wilson".

Walter R. Wilson
Sheriff, Tuscarawas County



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



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
17273 State Route 104
Chillicothe, OH 45601

In Reply Refer To: 538/00

March 19, 2010

Bill McKell
Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Telcom
68 East Main Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Dear Mr. McKell:

As the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Chillicothe, Ohio, I have seen firsthand the important benefits a robust fiber-optic broadband network can have on enhancing medical care to our patients. Based on this clear understanding, I am expressing my strong support for funding and construction of the Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium (CAO-MMC).

The Chillicothe VA Medical Center and its five community-based outpatient clinics located throughout the CAO-MMC proposed service area provide acute and chronic psychiatric services, primary and secondary medical services, and a wide range of nursing home care to veterans residing primarily in southern and eastern Ohio. Access to care and quality of care have been greatly enhanced in this geographic area because of broadband technology, but, as you know, there is still much room for network growth and improvement.

Horizon and the Chillicothe VA Medical Center have a track record of partnering to improve patient care. In 2008, my staff determined that the timeliness of radiology interpretations during the evenings and weekends was unacceptable. Films were being couriered to the local hospital and results were faxed back to the VA Medical Center. Working with Horizon, we established a broadband network between the medical center and a radiology group in Columbus, Ohio, that is staffed 24/7, thus reducing the turnaround time for obtaining radiologists' interpretations from hours to minutes. The application of this technology greatly enhanced quality of care to patients frequenting our emergency room and those in our acute medical units.

Looking forward, the Chillicothe VA Medical Center is seeking to expand the use of telemedicine for orthopedics, dermatology and mental health across southern and eastern portions of the state. We would also like to expand outpatient services to the Highland/Clinton County area. The availability of fiber-based broadband is a rate-limiting factor in our placement of outpatient services because of our heavy and increasing reliance on electronic health records, telemedicine and clinical imaging.

Our current network connecting the VA Medical Center with its five outpatient clinics does consist of some fiber, but also depends on T1 lines that do not have the capacity necessary for telemedicine and robust health information exchange. That is why the CAO-MMC's pledge to connect all our outpatient clinics with fiber is of the utmost importance as VAMC Chillicothe moves ahead with employing health information technology that improves access to and quality of veterans' health care.

Access to digitized medical information and the interoperability and responsiveness of regional health information exchange is essential to carrying out our mission to provide the best possible medical care to our nation's heroes. I firmly believe the fiber-optic based Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium public-private partnership will enhance veterans' health care in southern and eastern Ohio.

I very much appreciate your commitment to run fiber to all our outpatient clinics. If I can be of any further assistance in solidifying ARRA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding for the CAO-MMC, please do not hesitate to contact me at (740) 773-1141 ext. 7002 or jeff.gering@va.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY T. GERING, FACHE
Medical Center Director

cc: Pankaj Shah, Executive Director, OARnet



March 23, 2010

CEO Bill McKell
Horizon Telcom
68 East Main Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Dear Mr. McKell:

As the state-designated entity leading the implementation and support of health information technology in Ohio, the Ohio Health Information Partnership (OHIP) is acutely aware of the effects lack of broadband connectivity has had on rural health care providers.

Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium proposal for BTOP CCI funds has captured our interest and our full support. We understand that if your application is successful and the middle mile network is built, it will connect the 353 health care facilities of the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (located across 34 counties) to the same redundant fiber backbone. Rural providers will benefit from real-time telemedicine consultations with urban specialists across the county by way of your peering relationships with OARnet and links to carrier hotels in Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh and Chicago.

Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium will be connecting our most at-risk providers that serve the poorest, most rural patients. These include the 30 federally qualified health centers, 12 community access hospitals and eight rural health clinics you have scheduled for direct fiber connections.

This approach is consistent with OHIP's missions: 1) to advance the adoption, implementation and meaningful use of HIT among health care providers and 2) to facilitate and develop an electronic HIE in order to improve the safety, quality, accessibility, availability and efficiency of health care for the citizens of Ohio. OHIP encourages innovative HIT solutions by active regional entities not only to meet their specific community's needs, but ultimately to establish best practices for EHR adoption and meaningful use that can be identified and leveraged throughout the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Andres".

Amy Andres
Board Chair
Ohio Health Information Partnership

Cc: Pankaj Shah, Executive Director, OARnet



UNIVERSITY OF
RIO GRANDE
& RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY 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 the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, qualified anchor institutions, 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).

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, Ohio Board of Regents, 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 grades 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 other anchor institutions in our area, such as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rio Grande has degree completion, cooperative, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs with these institutions.

This will enable our institutions to:

- 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 health care facilities in Southeastern Ohio.
- [REDACTED]
- Expand our activities with the Endeavor Center, a joint project between Rio Grande and The Ohio State University which provides rural economic and small business development initiatives and offers a vital incubation environment for our campus MBA Program in Entrepreneurship.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to our [REDACTED] campus and the numerous elementary and high schools where Rio Grande's teacher education students are engaged in observation and classroom teaching field experiences.
- Increase capacity for our regional libraries and community computing centers which are flooded with patrons who have no residential broadband services available or are unable to afford access.

There is currently a limited or complete lack of residential broadband services in Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton counties. This limitation has negatively affected our ability to support the non-residential student population who need access to e-mail, collaborative software applications, e-Portfolios, Learning Management Systems, OhioLINK and other academic research and online instructional resources. The information technology (IT) trends towards Cloud Computing and Software as a service offering from providers like Blackboard, Google and Microsoft make strong assumptions for the availability of an adequate broadband foundation.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in middle-mile extensions of the OARnet network infrastructure to several key locations outlined above. This build-out may also stimulate further expansions to the limited residential and small business broadband connection offerings. The Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile initiatives establish a physical infrastructure foundation for fiber optics capable of serving today's immediate needs and offering growth capacity to expand further for future needs.

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, will 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 Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College are pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in Ohio.

Best regards,



Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley
President



9900 Brick Church Road , Cambridge, Ohio 43725 • 740-432-6568

Greg L. DiDonato
Director, OMEGA
326 Highland Avenue
PO Box 130
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

RE: Letter of Support for Connecting Appalachia Ohio
Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC)

Dear Greg,

Zane State College's Willett-Pratt Training Center located in the O.D. Hall Industrial Park is a catalyst for economic and industrial growth as well as employment opportunities for our citizens. Companies benefit from customized training and achieve their goals by having a skilled workforce that performs optimally and can compete globally. In the last year we have served over three thousand employees in non-credit workforce development classes and the college has a spring enrollment of over two and a half thousand credit students.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality in our area would give us access to services to keep our employers on a competitive level with the metropolitan areas and assist us in providing an even playing or learning field for our rural students. One of the most frustrating situations we face is the lack of broadband for our area. Students and employers both utilize our building for training and planning meetings, and I have often been dismayed to find that we cannot offer full service due to the limitations of our broadband here at the college. Our county One-Stop is located in our building and has experienced similar issues. They provide a resource room for job seekers to conduct research and apply for jobs online.

We have two computer labs in our building used for instruction and research. Students can use the Learning Resource Library to do on-line courses and complete assignments. We offer this since many students cannot afford internet services in their homes. Over 70% of our students are on financial aid.

If we can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-588-1304 or by email at sfrancis@zanestate.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sally Francis'.

Associate Dean for Workforce Development
Zane State College



Office of the President

1555 Newark Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701

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 Zane 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 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 OMMC proposed projects, specifically the Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, will realize significant positive outcomes for Zane State College (Zanesville and Cambridge, Ohio). The Cambridge campus is the only permanent higher-education facility in rural Guernsey County. Serious technology infrastructure needs are impeding workforce development and degree-seeking students. Enrollment at the College continues to grow at a fantastic pace and demand has long exceeded what little internet capacity is available. The proposed project will serve to move high-speed capabilities into the area. As Zane State College expands offerings that enable Ohioans to get back to work, the internet infrastructure is critical to student success.

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.

Zane State 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, appearing to read "Paul R. Brown".

Paul R. Brown, Ed.D.



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 President of Marietta 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, and
- 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.

Even though Marietta College is a private liberal arts college, we have worked with the public community college in Marietta in the past to assist them in securing less expensive broadband connectivity. Currently, Marietta College provides the means for the City of Marietta to connect to the Internet. These are just a couple of examples where Marietta College has strived to bring broadband connectivity to Washington County, Ohio, at an affordable cost.

CHARTERED IN 1835

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

This will enable our institution to:

- 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 throughout Washington County in Ohio, and
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to the 7 high schools, the Washington County Career Center, 6 public library locations, and numerous other public agencies.

There is currently limited or lack of broadband services in Washington County which has negatively affected our ability to offer our interns in Teacher Education the ability to connect back to our Education Department.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in Marietta College being able to be used as an anchor institution to provide connectivity to many of the rural school systems within Washington County. Due to the limited broadband availability throughout most of the county, these schools have no hope of inexpensive connectivity at the current time. We anticipate that broadband connectivity in these schools will assist Marietta College in offering enhanced Teacher Education for the underprivileged students.

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.

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

Sincerely,



Jean A. Scott
President



Southern State Community College
Higher Education Anchor Institution
Letter of Support

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 Southern State 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, 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 22, 2010

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our service area, including Adams, Brown, and Highland counties.

This will enable our institution to:

- 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, and improve access to higher education and healthcare resources in our rural Appalachian area.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to all of our five counties, four campuses, over 20 high schools, and numerous libraries in the area.

There is currently a lack of broadband services in the southern half of our large service area which has negatively affected our students' access to higher education opportunities and our communities' ability to compete in attracting new businesses and jobs, within a global economy.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in improved access to higher education through distance learning and hybrid courses, workforce training, expertise and diagnosis in healthcare, and small and large business development opportunities.

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.

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

Best regards,



Kevin Boys, Ed.D.
President



Washington State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

710 Colegate Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750
740.374.8716
Fax 740.373.7496

Charlotte R. Hatfield, Ph.D.
President

Monday, 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 Washington State 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 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.

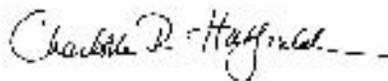
The OMMC proposed projects will enable Washington State Community College to reach more students and potential students in need of distance learning opportunities. Expanding distance learning offerings and opportunities is one of four, strategic initiatives for Washington State and is in direct support of the University System of Ohio's Strategic Plan for Higher Education. By enabling a greater percentage of Washington and Morgan county residents to subscribe to broadband services, Washington State will be able to more effectively offer educational services to constituents within our service district. The current lack of broadband access prohibits many students from attending college.

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.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte P. Hatfield". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Charlotte Hatfield, Ph.D.

President

Washington State Community College

Jefferson County Campus

4000 Sunset Boulevard
Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: 740-264-5591
Toll Free: 800-682-6553

March 18, 2010

www.egcc.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 Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), 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 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 our institution with its recently expanded service area in northeast Ohio. EGCC was created by the Ohio legislature in October of 2009 from Jefferson Community College, expanding its service area from one county (Jefferson) to include the three counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana. To accomplish this, the college is implementing a collaborative virtual college model using online interactive video instruction and virtual technologies to serve the communities in these counties. Presently, five satellite campuses have been established in our extended service area with the sixth site in the planning stage.

Funding the OMMC proposed projects will enable our institution to:

- 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 northeastern Ohio.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to our current five satellite campuses, twelve post secondary partners, more than fifty high schools, and nearly fifty libraries in our area.

There is currently limited or no broadband services in the rural areas in each of the counties, Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana and Jefferson, which has negatively affected our ability to provide online instruction and resources to our students. It also severely impacts the number of people who will be able to take advantage of our virtual college offerings. Our collaborative model relies heavily on adequate internet upload and download speeds for a successful experience in interactive distance instruction. For example, our Department of Health Technologies is interested in integrating e-HIM Virtual Lab software into its curriculum to emulate hospital and clinic environments, which would improve students' ability to understand and assimilate new information. However, inconsistent bandwidth accessibility for EGGC's campuses as well as our student population limits our capability to provide this type of technology-rich educational programming, which is quickly becoming the norm in better-served areas. Access to affordable broadband is essential if our students are to compete in the 21st century workforce.

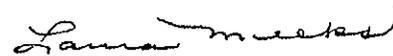
We anticipate that the implementation of the OMMC project will result in increased educational opportunities and related services to our four-county population of 642,970 people. Improved access to college-level courses through broadband technology will increase overall attainment of college degrees, leading to increased wages and industry growth, new business start-ups and overall growth in the economies of our northeastern Ohio.

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.

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

Best regards,



Laura M. Meeks, Ph.D.
President



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 Shawnee 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.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will allow Southern Ohio Medical Center to better serve residents in rural areas by providing the opportunity for patients to receive consultations, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring by their medical professionals via the internet. The project will be an economic boost for small business owners throughout the region by helping them to increase their productivity by extending their market research and allowing them

Office of the President

www.shawnee.edu

740.351.3208 ■ 740.351.3470 fax

940 Second Street ■ Portsmouth, Ohio 45662-4344

to remain competitive at the same time. The opportunity will also be available for entrepreneurs to start up new businesses while effectively lowering start-up costs. New businesses will also be able to lower travel and meeting expenses through electronic connectivity. Increased connectivity will also enable new and current business owners to strengthen relationships with customers and potential clients and will enable them to reach new customers by effectively extending their market reach through advertising via the internet and we will have the opportunity to enhance our on-line institution at Shawnee State University.

Collaborations between colleges and universities will expand through increased connectivity. A dedicated broadband network will enable university officials to conduct meetings via the internet effectively reducing travel expenses. Special speakers and lecturers may also be shared via a broadband connection. Educational exchange programs such as our program with China will also benefit through increased connectivity.

The Portsmouth Public Library and its branch locations as well as the Clark Memorial Library here on campus will also benefit. They will be better able to share resources such as on-line books, magazines, newspapers and more through increased connectivity. During these lean budget times this will enable area libraries to cut down on expenses while still providing quality service to their patrons.

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.

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

Sincerely,



Rita Rice Morris

President, Shawnee State University

March 17, 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 Belmont Technical 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.

Office of the President



The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as our North Center in Harrison County and the proposed center in Monroe County will enable our institution:

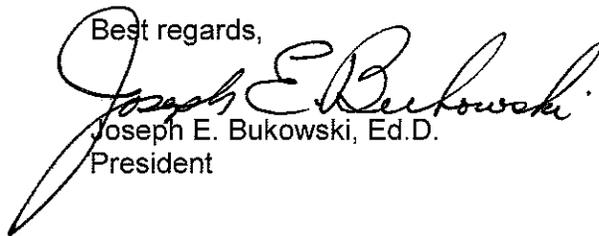
- to offer additional on-line courses to the residents of both of these counties;
- *increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development; and*
- *bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to educational facilities.*

There is currently limited or lack of broadband services in Belmont, Harrison, and Monroe counties which has negatively affected our ability to provide on-line courses. We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in increased enrollment in higher education and an increased number of college graduates.

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

Best regards,



Joseph E. Bukowski, Ed.D.
President

CENTRAL OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Office of the President
Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.

March 18, 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 Central Ohio Technical 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.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services throughout our region linking students, staff, faculty, and others. A build-out of infrastructure will, also, promote a greater take-rate of broadband services.

Increased investments in technology and infrastructure will provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development. The availability of broadband is **"no longer a choice, but a necessity in today's business environment"!**

In December of 2008 a survey was conducted throughout southeastern Ohio. The information collected from all institutions of higher education reflected that students were struggling with online classes

1179 University Drive Newark, Ohio 43055-1797
740.364.9510 740.364.9509 fax 740.366.9182

because of lack of access to broadband services. Faculty members added that they, too, were at a disadvantage once they left campus. Lack of broadband services negatively affected their ability to work from home.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in expanded access for students for education and training opportunities, economic development, collaboration, and new programs in previously unserved or underserved areas.

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.

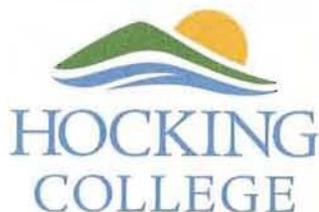
Central Ohio Technical College is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie L. Coe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" at the end.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.
President
Central Ohio Technical College

Ron Erickson, Ph.D.



March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
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 Hocking College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications submitted to your agency's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The OMMC includes three integrated applications that collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The consortium 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 chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals and forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions, plus their branch campuses; seven urban centers; 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) that serve the K-12 system; nine public broadcasting stations; and various hospitals, state and local government agencies across Ohio. OARnet has a 23-year history of providing advanced networking services throughout the State of Ohio to meet the needs of underserved communities while reducing costs of the state's higher education infrastructure.

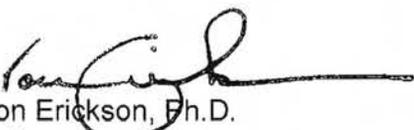
Funding the OMMC applications will enable our institution to:

- Collaborate in shared internet resources to reduce cost and provide improved delivery and participation of on-line learning programs;
- Facilitate enhanced educational delivery for our youth and adult populations throughout Appalachian Ohio;
- Collaborate with other higher education institutions, and facilitate economic development through innovative e-commerce initiatives;
- Reduce the institutional costs to distributed OARnet fiber optics networks, resulting in reduced costs to the region for business, nonprofit efforts, and education; and
- Facilitate additional internet resources to satellite offices, which would improve distance learning initiatives and enhance on-line learning programs.

The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private institutions of higher education. 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.

I am pleased to advocate on behalf of this outstanding proposal, and will do everything I can to support the OMMC and its aim to improve the lives of so many Ohio citizens.

Sincerely,



Ron Erickson, Ph.D.
College President

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 Chief Information Officer of Ohio 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 will provide the critical infrastructure necessary to allow delivery of competitive educational, research, and economic development resources to our anchor institutions. Currently, the southeast Ohio region has limited connections to the OARnet network (state higher educational network). These limited POPs (points of presence) leave the majority of the educational institutions on leased-line circuits with significant bandwidth limitations. The ability to offer advanced technology-based services to the region is greatly diminished due to this major infrastructure weakness.

This will enable our institution to:

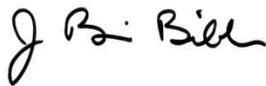
- Extend media-rich educational services to the region
- Consolidate critical services for delivery to under-served institutions
- Improve efficiency through shared IT service initiatives
- Allow all institutions to participate in national and international programs
- Support expansion of cost-effective broadband services to economic development initiatives through shared/local POPs
- Improve research competitiveness through expanded and configurable broadband capacity

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 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 that reads "J Brice Bible". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Brice Bible
Chief Information Officer
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701



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

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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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED].

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 [REDACTED] 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,



David R. Hopkins



OHIO APPALACHIAN CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

740.351.3289 office
740.351.3186 fax
866.GO.OACHE

c/o Shawnee State University
940 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662-4344
www.oache.org

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio
The Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Zack Space
315 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Governor Strickland & Representative Space,

The Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education (OACHE) was founded in 1993 to address the college access barriers that have long plagued Appalachian Ohio. Back then, only 30% of our high school students went on to post-secondary education, which was 10% below the statewide rate and 30% below the national rate. In 2004, the estimated college-going rate of Appalachian Ohio was up to 51%, only about six percentage points below the statewide statistic.

OACHE's consortium of higher education institutions, working in partnership with our K—12 schools and the private sector, is proud of the progress we have made. Our students are better prepared academically and have the confidence to pursue higher education. However, according to our most recent study, the cost of attending college is now a bigger concern to the people of our region than it was back in 1992.

Nationally, we've watched online degree programs flourish in the last decade, and given our current economic crisis, I believe distance learning is the future of higher education. It is the best chance our working poor have to attain a college degree and living-wage employment. It is a viable alternative for people with a wide range of learning styles and life situations, but unless our region builds a broadband infrastructure, distance learning and all the opportunities it offers are lost to us.

That is why OACHE lends its strong support to the Connecting Appalachia initiatives. We appreciate the Southern Ohio Health Care Network's willingness to provide the fiber-optic backbone that will make wireless broadband coverage of our entire region possible. Connecting Appalachia's integrated, comprehensive approach makes sense financially and technically.

Please contact me if OACHE can be of further assistance in Connecting Appalachia's mission to bridge Ohio's "digital divide." I can be reached at (866) 466-2243.

Sincerely,

Brenda Haas
Executive Director
Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

Cc: Misty Castow, Executive Director, Buckeye Hills—Hocking Valley Regional Development District
Greg DiDonato, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association
John Hemmings, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

Winner of the Harvard University/Ford Foundation Innovations in American Government Award

OACHE Institutions

Belmont Technical College • Hocking College • Jefferson Community College • Kent State University
Ohio University • Rio Grande Community College • Shawnee State University
Southern State Community College • Washington State Community College • Zane State College



OHIO
UNIVERSITY
College of Education

February 12, 2009

Coalition of Rural and
Appalachian Schools
McCracken Hall 124H
Athens OH 45701-2979

T: 740.593.4414

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio
The Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Zack Space
315 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Governor Strickland & Representative Space,

For over 20 years now, the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) has been working to improve educational opportunities for all the children of Appalachian Ohio. We consider both of you to be allies in our ongoing struggle for public school funding equity here in Ohio, but we also know that our efforts to level the playing field for our students must extend far beyond the walls of our schools.

The young people of Appalachian Ohio are preparing for entry into higher education and/or a competitive job market. It is essential that we provide them with the same tools available to children in the rest of the state and across the country. Broadband, high-speed Internet is arguably the strongest educational and economic driver of our time. Our students need access to it not just during the school day, but in their homes, libraries and community centers.

That is why CORAS lends its strong support to the Connecting Appalachia initiatives. We appreciate the Southern Ohio Health Care Network's willingness to provide the fiber-optic backbone that will make wireless broadband coverage of our entire region possible. Our quadrant of the state has many needs – education, health care and economic development – and we believe Connecting Appalachia's integrative, comprehensive approach makes sense financially and technically. It is sound public policy that will provide our students, teachers and staff with continuing educational opportunities never before available in Appalachian Ohio.

Please contact me if CORAS can be of further assistance in Connecting Appalachia's mission to bridge Ohio's "digital divide." I can be reached at (740) 593-4414.

Sincerely,

Dick Fisher
Executive Director
Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools

Cc: Misty Castow, Executive Director, Buckeye Hills–Hocking Valley Regional Development District

Greg DiDonato, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association
John Hemmings, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

PROGRESS ALLIANCE

A Division of the Community Improvement Corporation of the Steubenville Ohio Area

P.O. Box 187
Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: 740.283.2476
Fax: 740.283.2607

Kenneth R. Perkins, President
David Skiviat, Vice-President
Dr. Edward L. Florak, Treasurer
Alexander Marshall, Secretary

H. Edward Looman
Executive Director
elooman@progressalliance.com

March 10, 2010

Greg L. DiDonato
OMEGA
326 Highland Ave.
P.O. Box 130
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

RE: Letter of support for and partnership with the Connecting Appalachia Ohio—Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC)

Dear Greg:

As the executive director for Progress Alliance, the public-private economic development organization serving Jefferson County, I am writing to express our support for the Connecting Appalachia Ohio—Middle Mile Collaborative.

Progress Alliance works with many employers looking to either locate in Jefferson County or expand existing facilities. The single biggest barrier we face to economic development in our county is the lack of broadband access.

That is why we are pleased that OMEGA has spent the last 18 months building regional support via a comprehensive public information campaign and working with other agencies in the 34-county proposed service area to strategically plan for funding and implementation of the Connecting Appalachia Ohio—Middle Mile Collaborative.

The middle mile component of broadband access is critical to our organization and our entire county. We must bring improved broadband access to many areas of our county, particularly those currently housing existing industries and offering room for future growth. Improved access also is critical to future growth at the Jefferson County Industrial Park. The lack of adequate service prompted a lengthy delay in the grand opening of the new Signs Limited building in our park. The owner, who invested more than \$500,000 in the facility, could not occupy the structure in a timely manner due to issues with broadband access. I would point out this facility created 10 new jobs in our county.

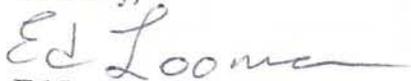
Current providers, for a whole variety of reasons, have been unable and, in some cases, not willing to provide needed services. This situation, of course, has created a number of problems. Residents of rural areas in our county are unable to obtain reliable services, creating numerous issues particularly for students of county school districts. Also, ongoing efforts to bring new development to the county have suffered.

Recently, Jefferson County had the opportunity to submit a proposal regarding a major economic development project. The involved company was looking for land along the Ohio River and was expected to bring more than 200 jobs to the selected community. The company's request for proposal listed world-class internet connectivity as a top priority. Unfortunately for us, our proposed site did not offer such service.

Making the CAO—MMC a reality is our economic development priority. It will ensure growth for Jefferson County. We know the power of a regional collaboration. This opportunity represents a unique way our county and our neighbors can improve our abilities to keep growing.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO—MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at (740) 283-2476 or via e-mail at elooman@progressalliance.com.

Sincerely,



Ed Looman
Executive Director
Progress Alliance



Scioto County, Ohio

617 Court Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662



OFFICES OF
SCIOTO COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION
Commercial/Industrial
Building Permits

STEVEN T. CARTER
Executive Director

PHYLLIS PERTUSET
Administrative Assistant
740-355-1265
Fax 740-355-1262

March 25, 2010

Mr. John Hemmings, III
Executive Director
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 220E, Suite A
Waverly, OH 45690

Dear Mr. Hemmings:

The Board of Scioto County Commissioners and Scioto's Economic Development Office are in support of Horizon's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) proposal for National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funding to bring a middle mile fiber-optic backbone to the targeted 34 counties of the Connecting Appalachian Application.

It is critically important to expand broadband into our county and into the Appalachian Region to provide connectivity for our citizens, industrial parks, businesses, entrepreneurs, educational institutions, students and libraries to the rest of the world. Broadband will also enhance government's services to our mostly rural and small city areas in providing more efficient and capable police, fire and homeland security operations. Broadband will also enhance our Shawnee State University students, software developers and internet businesses to excel and compete in a global economy.

It is with exceptional desire that our citizens be given broadband access, to encourage growth among broadband providers with a strong fiber-optic backbone in a region dominated by mountain terrains, valleys and Ohio River tributaries. My office and the Board of Scioto County Commissioners enthusiastically support this project proposal.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Carter
Executive Director
Scioto County Economic Development Office



**Jackson County
Economic Development Board**

March 1, 2010

Mr. John W. Hemmings III
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 St. Rt. 220 E., Suite A
Waverly, OH 45690

Dear Mr. Hemmings,

On behalf of the Jackson County Economic Development Board (JCEDB), I am writing in support of Horizon and their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) proposal for National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funding to bring a middle mile fiber-optic backbone to the targeted 34 Ohio counties of the Connecting Appalachia application. As the Economic Development Director of an at-risk county, I am excited that if funded this project will bring much needed broadband service to Jackson County and the region.

While Jackson County has been successful in working with its limited broadband internet coverage, the access to high-capacity and reliable metropolitan-class broadband required to meet today's business class standards remains unavailable. For example Bellisio Foods, our largest employer, located in the heart of the City of Jackson, is unable to video conference with their home office in Minnesota. The lack of broadband availability not only hinders our larger industries, but also our small and emerging cottage-based businesses. Recently, a small auto industry consultant firm located in a rural township has expressed their frustration over the many hours spent uploading files for their clients because broadband internet coverage is not available for their home based business.

Another business sector adversely affected by the lack of broadband internet coverage is the medical community. Our local medical center and clinics have expressed their frustration when recruiting doctors to the area due to lack of broadband internet coverage which prohibits doctors from accessing their patients from home. These examples demonstrate how providing expanded broadband internet coverage is an essential ingredient in attracting and retaining businesses to Jackson County. Also, by expanding the current reach of broadband internet coverage, it will provide Jackson County's workforce with improved opportunities for training and skill enhancement for employment in tomorrow's businesses.

JCEDB wholeheartedly supports Horizon's ARRA proposal for NTIA funding to expand broadband internet coverage to the targeted 34 Ohio counties to ensure the continued and successful growth of our businesses in Jackson County and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Jacobs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Jacobs, Executive Director
Jackson County Economic Development Board

March 11, 2010

Mr. Greg DiDonato
OMEGA Executive Director
326 Highland Avenue
P.O. Box 130
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Re: Letter of Support for & Partnership with the Connecting Appalachia Ohio -
Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC)

Dear Greg:

On behalf of Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) representing 16 counties we are writing in support of the 34 county regional broadband grant application.

Within the Appalachia region there are currently 120 schools either without broadband or without adequate broadband services. It is essential that these students be trained in this technology if they expect to be competitive in the labor market.

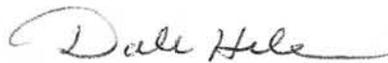
In many counties within the EODA 16 county region, there are businesses and industries without adequate broadband services. We are aware of some prospective businesses that located elsewhere since these services were not available. If we expect to both retain and attract industry we must have adequate broadband service to be competitive and to strengthen the faltering economy. Improved broadband service would equate to additional jobs.

We urge your continued support to obtain a grant to bring adequate broadband service to the Appalachia region and we applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,



Tracy Drake
President
Eastern Ohio
Development Alliance



Dale Hileman
Executive Director
Eastern Ohio
Development Alliance



The Vaughan Agency

Providing a world of choice in insurance.

March 4, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of The Vaughan Agency and Meigs County, I am writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

We are a small agency and at times need to be able to work from home. Only one of our employees has access to the internet from home. Although they live within ten miles of the office, they do not have high speed internet access. I can't imagine what other businesses in our County face and I imagine this lack of service hurts most every business, let alone potential home based businesses.

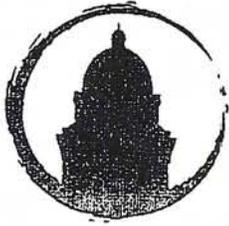
I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-992-9784 or by email at donald@thevaughanagency.com

On behalf of The Vaughan Agency and the 25,000 Meigs County residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,

Donald Vaughan, Owner
The Vaughan Agency
505 Mulberry Heights
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769



BELMONT COUNTY
Department of Development
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

March 17, 2010

Mr. Greg L. DiDonato
326 Highland Avenue
PO Box 130
Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Dear Director DiDonato,

The Department of Development Community Improvement Corporation (DOD/CIC) is the Economic Development Organization for Belmont County, working with many employers looking to locate in here.

We need working, dependable internet access and service to build our economic development. It is without question a vital resource we require to achieve any type of even chance to participate in national and international business.

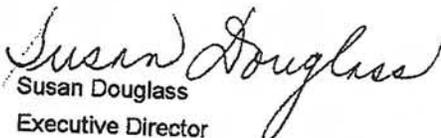
The access also must be capable of using the latest technologies as well as provide the highest levels of service supportable.

We are pleased that OMEGA has spent the last 18 months building regional support via a comprehensive public information campaign and working with other agencies in the 34-county proposed service area to strategically plan for funding and implementation of the Connecting Appalachia Ohio - Middle Mile Collaborative.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our economic development priority; it will ensure growth for our county. We know the power of regional collaboration. This opportunity is a unique way our county and our neighbors can work together and we all can attain success.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO- MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-695-9678.

Sincerely,


Susan Douglass
Executive Director

PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pike County Government Center * 230 Waverly Plaza, Suite 1000 * Waverly, Ohio 45690
(740) 947-4817 * Fax (740) 947-5065 *
pikecountycommissioners@yahoo.com

Members of the Board of Commissioners

Harry A. Rider, Chairman

Teddy L. West, Vice Chairman

Blaine Beckman, Member

April Elliott, Clerk

Angie Burggraf, Secretary

To Whom It May Concern,

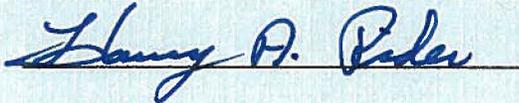
The Pike County Commissioners are pleased to offer a letter of support for the Connecting Appalachia Initiative. Pike County has perennially been designated as one of the Appalachian Regional Commission's "distressed" counties. Unemployment is currently at 15 percent . We desperately need expanded broadband service in our county.

One of the most critical needs is in the area of education. We regularly graduate talented young people who lack the financial resources to go on to college. Access to broadband in the rural area of the county would allow our youth, as well as older age groups, to take advantage of online college courses.

Equally important, although not as romantic, is the opportunity denied to our citizens to do business over the internet. In good economic times, this might not seem so important. With resources so limited, the ability to buy and sell online is extremely important. Expanded broadband would open a new world for many Pike Countians.

The Pike County commissioners strongly support the Connecting Appalachia Initiative. We hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,







Athens County Commissioners



Lenny Eliason
Mark Sullivan
Larry Payne

JoAnn Sikorski
Clerk/Admin. Assistant
Telephone (740) 592-3292
Fax (740) 594-8010

15 South Court St.
Athens, Ohio 45701
Visit us at our website:
athenscountygovernment.com

March 23, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of Athens County, we are writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

The County daycare providers are required by the State to complete forms and submit information via the internet. There are places in Athens County where high speed internet, which is required, is not available from any source, dialup is the only option and that does not meet the need to enable the daycare providers to open and submit the forms via the internet, as mandated by the State. Athens County will lose quality daycare provided due to the inability to receive high speed internet because of where they live. Not only is this a hardship on the daycare providers, but students in Athens County who have assignments they cannot complete, affecting their grades, self-esteem and ability to succeed.

I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-592-3219 or by email at leliason@athenscountygovernment.com.

On behalf of Athens County and the 63,255 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,

absent

Larry Payne, President

Lenny Eliason

Lenny Eliason, Vice President

Mark Sullivan

Mark Sullivan

Vinton County Commissioners Office

Vinton County Courthouse - 1st Floor
100 East Main Street
McArthur, Ohio 45651
e-mail: commissioners@vintonco.com

Phone: 740-596-4571
Fax: 740-596-9446
Angela Horn, Clerk

Jerry Zinn, President - **Thomas Morgan**, Vice President - **Michael Bledsoe**, Commissioner

March 4, 2010

John W. Hemmings III
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 220 East Suite A
Waverly, OH 45690

Dear Mr. Hemmings:

We, as the Board of Vinton County Commissioners, would like to express our support in Horizon's application for Second Round of Stimulus for Broadband.

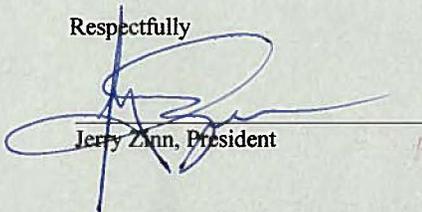
Since 2007 in collaboration and co operation with the Vinton County Chamber of Commerce, the Vinton County Board of Commissioners have sought to address the issue of "high speed" broadband or more specifically, the lack there-of in Vinton County. The Vinton County Chamber of Commerce selected a task force to study the issue and later this group was "adopted" by the VC Board of Commissioners and its members have become the Vinton County Broadband Advisory Council. Through this Council's efforts and research provided by Connect Ohio this analysis has been made:

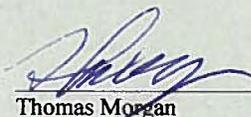
- **Problem Statement:** Based on Connect Ohio research information, Vinton County Broadband availability is <60%, which is significantly lower than the state average of 94.6 %.
- **Barriers identified as being prohibitive to attracting service providers and to accessing high speed, business class broadband service in Vinton County :** 1. Lack of broadband infrastructure; 2. Unforgiving terrain encompasses most of Vinton County; 3. Vinton County has one of the lowest population densities in Ohio.
- **Proof of Need:** Based on Connected Nation's Economic Impact Study, Vinton County, Containing approximately .1% of Ohio's population, could expect to secure about 112 jobs and create approximately \$4.2 million in annual direct income growth, with a 7 % increase in broadband use.

Vision Statement: To provide affordable, best in class broadband connectivity to all business and residents of Vinton County and to the Industrial/ Business Park, emergency services, government entities and schools and their students.

In order to achieve the broadband availability that this Board of Commissioners, and the Vinton County Broadband Advisory Council has envisioned for Vinton County, the "middle mile" service provider is crucial to attracting the "last mile" service provider and to overcoming the barriers for accessing "high speed", business class Internet. Therefore, the Vinton County Board of Commissioners strongly support Horizon's efforts to fill the broadband "middle mile" gap.

Respectfully


Jerry Zinn, President


Thomas Morgan


Michael Bledsoe

BOB PETERSON
5564 Grassy Branch Road NW
Sabina, Ohio 45169

JACK DeWEESE
1050 Bloomingburg-New Holland Road NW
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160

TONY ANDERSON
11524 Cook-Yankeetown Road NE
Mt. Sterling, Ohio 43143

JUDY RAMBO, Adm. Clerk

Fayette County Commissioners
Suite 401 • 133 South Main Street
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160
Phone (740) 335-0720 FAX (740) 333-3530

March 25, 2010

John W. Hemmings III
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 200 East, Suite A
Waverly, Ohio 45690

Dear Mr. Hemmings:

As Fayette County develops an expanding Washington C.H. industrial park and the hope for jobs and business to grow in our Jobs Ready Site in the industrial area of S.R. 35 and Interstate 71, we would envision the growth of and expansion of broadband within our community as a vital part of infrastructure.

The necessity of an affordably priced range of service to both family and mega-business alike are no longer items for the future. High speed broadband is as much of a needed link to the internet world of business as the highway and water and sewer project are to the daily need of business.

The inclusion of Fayette County in this project is greatly appreciated. The jobs that can be created in Fayette County can be filled by residents of Ross and Highland or any other County.

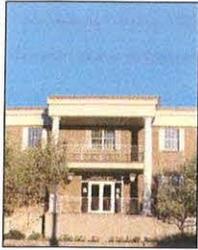
Thank you for the consideration of inclusion.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF
FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tony Anderson, Chairman

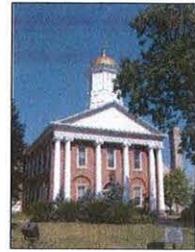
TA/jr



HIGHLAND COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1975-1976

Highland County Board of Commissioners

119 GOVERNOR FORAKER PLACE, SUITE 211
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133-1161
Phone 937-393-1911 Fax 937-393-5850
www.co.highland.oh.us



HIGHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
1832-1834
OHIO'S OLDEST COURTHOUSE IN
CONTINUOUS USE

SHANE WILKIN
TOM HORST
GARY HEATON
Debbie Sansone, Clerk

March 24, 2010

John W. Hemmings, III
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 220 East, Suite A
Waverly, Ohio 45690

Re: Support for Horizon's application to Department of Commerce, NTIA

Dear John,

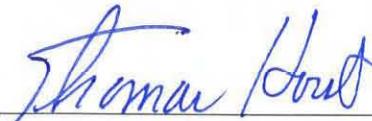
The Highland County Board of Commissioners supports Horizon's efforts to obtain funding from the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications, and Information Administration (NTIA) for the installation of middle-mile fiber backbone in all thirty-four Appalachia counties.

Approximately ninety-eight percent of the land area in Highland County is rural. This statistic alone demonstrates the need for middle-mile and last-mile broadband that is currently available only in the densely populated areas of the county. Satellite access is often the only option for broadband in rural county areas and the cost for satellite access is prohibitive to most households.

County-wide broadband access is estimated to create 360 jobs in Highland County and create \$13.3 million in annual direct income growth. Highland County has numerous broadband providers, but without the middle-mile fiber backbone, much of Highland County remains without high-speed Internet access. For these reasons, we support Horizon's application for NTIA broadband funding.

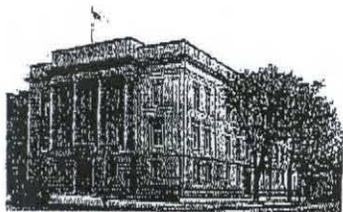
Sincerely,







Board of County Commissioners
Highland County, Ohio



1 EAST MAIN STREET - COURTHOUSE - LOGAN, OHIO 43138

www.co.hocking.oh.us

GREG GREEN, President
SANDRA OGLE, Vice President
JOHN WALKER, Commissioner

KALENA OGG, Clerk
Phone: (740) 385-5195
Fax: (740) 385-1105

March 9, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of the Hocking County Commissioners, I am writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio - Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

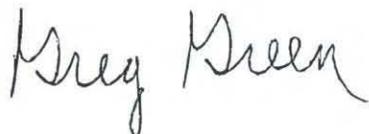
I have my own business and am an elected official. Seven months ago I dropped my dial up internet service at my home, because of the inconvenience of the slow speed and numerous times getting kicked offline. I now have satellite internet, which is much faster, but at certain peak times it is slow. The cost is \$69.00 per month, which is a price range that most Hocking County residents cannot afford. We are in the last mile area, which no one will service because of cost.

I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 740-385-5195 or by email at commissioners@co.hocking.oh.us.

On behalf of the Hocking County Commissioners and the 29,000 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,



Greg Green, President



JAMES P. RIEPENHOFF
WELLSTON, OHIO

TOM WALTON
WELLSTON, OHIO

ED ARMSTRONG
JACKSON, OHIO

OFFICE OF
JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
275 PORTSMOUTH STREET
JACKSON, OHIO 45640-1750
(740) 286-3301
FAX (740) 286-4061

March 1, 2010

Resolution #97-10

Mr. John W. Hemmings III
Executive Director
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 St. Rt. 220 E., Suite A
Waverly, OH 45690

Dear Mr. Hemmings,

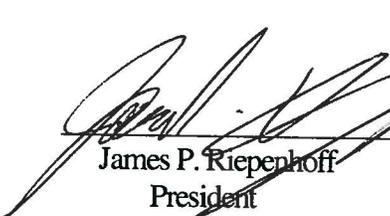
We are writing this letter of support for Horizon and their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) proposal for National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funding to bring a middle mile fiber-optic backbone to the targeted 34 Ohio counties of the Connecting Appalachia application. It is our understanding that this project will provide Jackson County with greatly expanded broadband internet coverage for its citizens.

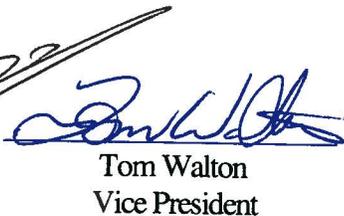
Although broadband is available in the more populous areas of the county, the vast majority of the county is either underserved or not served at all. Many residents living in the rural townships have expressed their continuous frustration over the lack of availability of high speed internet access for simple things such as emailing files, internet research for school children, and options for cottage based businesses. The investment costs associated with providing rural households broadband internet service are very high. Unfortunately, existing providers already active in the county are unable to justify the cost of expanding their service.

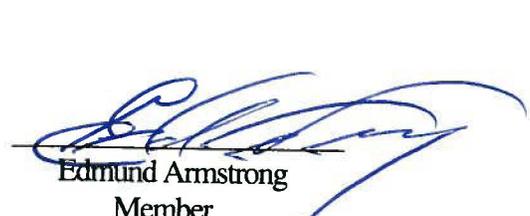
While we are concerned for the lack of residential availability that diminishes the quality of life of our residents, it is not as crucial as protecting their lives and property. One of the most important issues the county faces because of the lack of broadband service is safety. Rural township fire departments are at a severe disadvantage in the level of protection they can provide their residents due to diminished communication capability stemming from antiquated radio equipment and outdated computers.

It is with great enthusiasm we, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, wholeheartedly support Horizon's ARRA proposal for NTIA funding to bring a middle mile fiber-optic backbone to the targeted 34 Ohio counties to enrich the lives of our residents and improve our ability to retain and attract business to Jackson County.

Sincerely,


James P. Riepenhoff
President


Tom Walton
Vice President


Edmund Armstrong
Member

Board of Perry County Commissioners

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2010

BY:



P.O. Box 248 121 W. Brown Street
New Lexington, Ohio 43764
Telephone : 740-342-2045 Fax: 740-342-5505
E-mail: perryco@perrycountyohio.net

March 8, 2010

The Perry County Commissioners met in a regular session on **March 5, 2010** and passed the following resolution.

(10-0305-02)

Moved by Mr. Shriner.

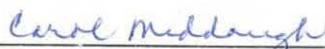
The Perry County Commissioners authorizes Lonnie Wood, President, Perry County Board of Commissioners to sign the **Letter of Support** to Buckeye Hills-HVRDD, Misty Casto for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio-Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC).

Seconded by Mr. Keister.

With no further discussion, roll call vote taken:

Lonnie Wood	: Yes
Ed Keister	: Yes
Fred Shriner	: Yes

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Perry County, Ohio, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the agreement that the Perry County Board of Commissioners adopted on **March 5, 2010** and appearing upon the official records of the Board.



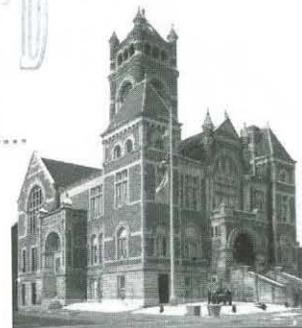
Carol Middaugh, CLERK
Commissioners Office, Perry County, Ohio

Board of Perry County Commissioners

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2010

BY:

P.O. Box 248 121 W. Brown Street
New Lexington, Ohio 43764
Telephone : 740-342-2045 Fax: 740-342-5505
E-mail: perryco@perrycountyohio.net



March 5, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of The Perry County Commissioners we are writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

In Perry County the use of broadband for Economic Development would assist in small business start up with eCommerce which would allow them to run solely off of the internet. Another reason could be to use broadband as a security solution that could offer protection to each homeowner or business via the internet. We have an IT employee who has a Time Warner main cable/internet line that runs through his property that doesn't have access to it who could work from home if it was available. We also have another employee who lives in the county three miles between two small towns that has a main cable/internet line that runs through her property that doesn't have access to it.

I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If we can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact us at 740-342-2045 or by email at perryco@perrycountyohio.net.

On behalf of The Perry County Commissioners and the Perry County residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,

Lonnie Wood, President
Perry County Commissioners

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

Jason C. Stephens, CFP®
President
Les Boggs, Th.M
Doug Malone



Tami Meade
Administrator

Summer Riley
Assistant Administrator

LAWRENCE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

111 South 4th Street • Ironton, Ohio 45638
PH: (740) 533-4300 • FAX: (740) 533-4370
Email: lawco2@ash.twcbc.com

March 23, 2010

John Hemmings, Executive Director
OVRDC
9329 State Route 220 East, Suite A
Wayerly, Ohio 45690-9012

VIA Fax 740-947-3468

Dear Mr. Hemmings,

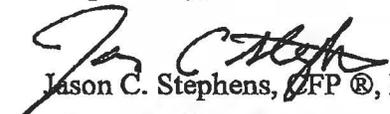
With broadband leading the gateway to a digital future, our citizens, children and businesses has been very much left behind.

We are excited to work with Herizon to expand broadband in Lawrence County, Ohio. The Lawrence County Broadband Committee is willing to work in any manner to assist Herizon, so we may move forward to bring broadband to our county.

We ask for your assistance and fully support the efforts of Herizon to see that funds are considered for our county and complete our broadband service plan.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact our office at (740) 533-4301.

Respectfully,


Jason C. Stephens, CFP®, President

Les Boggs, Th.M

Doug Malone
Bd of Lawrence County Commissioners
Lawrence County, Ohio

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Telephone: (740) 472-1341

Fax: (740) 472-5156

John V. Pyles,, President
Carl Davis, Vice President
Tim Price

Allyson Cox, Clerk



BY:

March 8, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
P.O. Box 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of the Monroe County Commissioners, we am writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio-Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

Several areas in the county do not have internet services at all. This impacts all residents, business owners that need internet for their businesses. Many students need to travel several miles to access a computer at a library.

We believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1093s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact us at 740-472-1341.

On behalf of the Monroe County Commissioners and the 15,000 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,

Monroe County Commissioners


John V. Pyles


Tim Price


Carl Davis



**Morgan County
Commissioners**

155 East Main St., Room 216
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
Phone: 740-962-3183
Fax: 740-962-2014

Mike Reed
Don Reynolds
Dean Cain

Andrea Plummer, Clerk

March 3, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of the Board of Morgan County Commissioners, we are writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

Morgan County is a rural community in Southeastern Ohio with limited hi-speed internet access. Our stories are no different from other counties with limited access; whether you are operating a business, a student struggling with homework or using the internet for social communications. We as a group would be in support of broad-band availability for Morgan County.

I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for RTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 740-962-3183 or by email at countycommissioners@morgancounty-oh.gov.

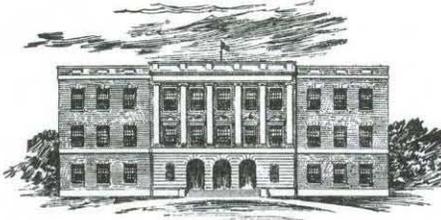
On behalf of the Board of Morgan County Commissioners and the 14,897 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future!

Sincerely,


Mike Reed, President


Don Reynolds, Vice-President


Dean Cain, Member



NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROOM 210 - COURT HOUSE

CALDWELL, OHIO 43724-1294

PHONE (740) 732-2969

RECEIVED
MAR 10 2010

March 8, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO Box 520
Reno, OH 45773

BY:

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of the Noble County Commissioners, we are writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio – Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

Noble County is largely a rural county with very little service. Some homes have dial-up internet service that is often interrupted in the middle of a project. This creates a problem to operate a home business with the internet as a source or a student working on a school project. The internet is not a valuable tool in the remote areas when it operates sporadically.

We believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

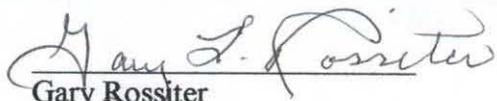
Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as electrification was back in the 1930's. If we can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 740-732-2969 or by email at noblecom@verizon.net.

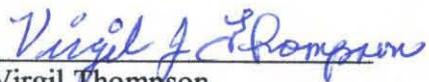
On behalf of the Noble County Board of Commissioners and the 14,058 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is critical to Appalachia's future.

Sincerely,

Noble County Commissioners


Robert Nau


Gary Rossiter


Virgil Thompson



301 Putnam Street - Marietta, Ohio 45750
Phone (740) 373-1387 - Fax (740) 373-2489
www.mariettaoh.net

March 8, 2010

Buckeye Hills-HVRDD
Misty Casto, Executive Director
PO BOX 520
Reno, OH 45773

Dear Ms. Casto:

On behalf of the City of Marietta, I am writing to express support for The Connecting Appalachia Ohio - Middle Mile Collaborative (CAO-MMC). The widespread lack of broadband services makes rural economic development increasingly more challenging.

The Connecting Appalachia plan contains critical commercial fiber-optic resources that will help create jobs and increase our region's opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry. Expanded broadband services will also help rural America offer its residents a better quality of life.

In doing the homework to make informed decisions on how to best address inadequacies in broadband access, I discovered an interesting anecdote about another Appalachian city that has recognized the importance of universal access. In Blacksburg, Virginia a recent survey noted that 87% of the population used the internet on a regular basis.

This information prompted me to consider the percentage of Marietta citizens who have access and use the internet. I have no hard data, but would contend that our percentage of internet users is significantly lower than Blacksburg. Consequently, our ability to enjoy the benefits of the knowledge based economy of the future will be proportional to the access we have available, and currently the on ramp to the internet superhighway is very limited.

I believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

Making the CAO-MMC a reality is our region's #1 economic development priority. It is as important to our region's survival as rural electrification was back in the 1930s. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the CAO-MMC's application for BTOP CCI stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at (740) 373-1387 or by email at mayor@mariettaoh.net.

On behalf of the City of Marietta and the 14,515 residents that we represent and serve, broadband planning and deployment is a critical element for growth and prosperity in our community and throughout Appalachian Ohio.

Sincerely,

Michael Mullen
Mayor

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 10-112

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission serves the counties of Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton as a Local Development District for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission has been assisting the twelve-county region to improve the social and economic climate and improve infrastructure including access to comprehensive broadband services; and

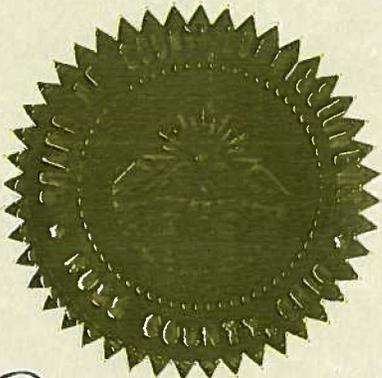
WHEREAS, Ross County supports the deployment of broadband locally to enhance its rural community and economic vitality; and

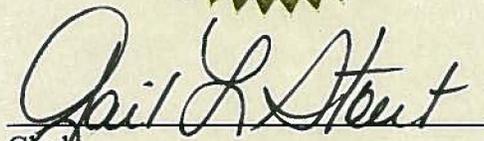
WHEREAS, Ross County supports a simplified process to seek broadband funding including one application for the 34-county region (16,000 square miles) that focuses on a middle-mile fiber backbone, local enhancements to meet unique county needs, a more attractive regional proposal, strong support with \$30 million in provide matching funds and a strong group of partners and endorsements; and

WHEREAS, Ross County supports funding for the Connecting Appalachia proposal through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA); now therefore, be it

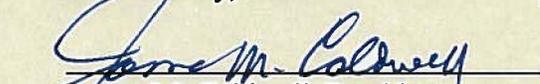
RESOLVED: that the Board of Commissioners of Ross County hereby supports Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission and the Southern Ohio Health Care Network on the Connecting Appalachia broadband proposal.

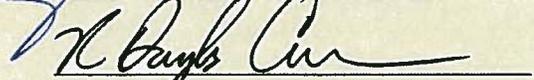
Adopted this 1st day of March, 2010.

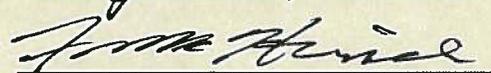



Clerk

Board of Commissioners
Ross County, Ohio


James M. Caldwell, President


R. Douglas Corcoran, Vice President


Frank Hirsch

BOARD OF ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
110 WEST MAIN STREET
WEST UNION, OH 45693

(937) 544-3286

Fax (937) 544-5992

Brian Baldrige

Justin Cooper, Chairman

Roger Rhonemus

March 1, 2010

John W. Hemmings, III
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 220, East, Suite A
Waverly, Ohio 45690

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is in support of Horizon's application for Second Round Stimulus funding to construct middle-mile broadband service in 34 counties.

Our goal, as a county, is for last-mile installation of broadband communications to aid our businesses and families in upgrading their online capabilities. Without middle-mile service, our efforts will be thwarted.

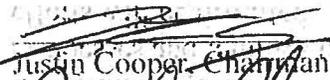
Due to the rural nature of our county, existing broadband providers have found it unfeasible to install fiber outside of the villages because of sparse population which makes the venture unprofitable.

Horizon's plan includes \$30 million of private sector investment in this proposed project. Matched with the NTIA request of \$70 million, this allows the middle-mile 34 county fiber project backbone to become reality.

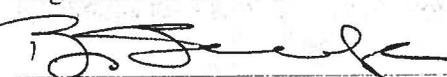
Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Horizon proposal for Second Round Stimulus funding.

Sincerely,

Adams County Commissioners


Justin Cooper, Chairman


Roger A. Rhonemus, Vice Chairman


Brian Baldrige, Member

Gallia County Commissioners

Gallia County Courthouse
18 Locust Street - Room 1292
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
Ph: 740.446.4612, Ext 227
Fax: 740.446.4804
Email: gcbooc@gallianet.net
Website: www.gallianet.net



Howard "Joe" Foster, President
Justin L. Fallon, Vice-President
Lois M. Snyder, Member

Office Staff:
Karen Sprague, County Administrator
Terry Hemby, Clerk of the Board
Connie Johnson, Assistant Clerk

March 25, 2010

John W. Hemmings III
Executive Director
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
9329 State Route 220 East, Suite A
Waverly, Ohio 45690-9012

RE: Connecting Appalachia Broadband proposal for Round 2 Stimulus Funds

Dear Sirs:

We, the Gallia County Board of Commissioners, are in support of the Connecting Appalachia Broadband proposal for Round 2 Stimulus Funds for funding the same 34 County focus as the Round 1 Stimulus application.

The project will be completed by a private-sector applicant (Horizon); NOT Southern Ohio Health Care Network. The request will be for \$70 million US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), with \$30 million in matching funds from private sector.

The project will provide a middle-mile fiber backbone proposal in all 34 counties and this project is the Governor's #1 Priority in the State for Round 2 Stimulus funds. This is possibly one or several last mile proposals where private sector will be pursuing USDA Rural Utility Service Round 2 Stimulus funds.

The continuation of these efforts is very much needed in Gallia County and Southeastern Ohio and any type of assistance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support of these funding efforts.

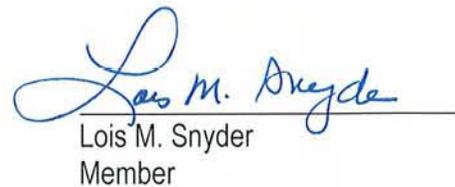
Respectfully submitted,
Gallia County Commissioners

absent

Howard "Joe" Foster
President



Justin L. Fallon
Vice President



Lois M. Snyder
Member



BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Matt Coffland · Ginny Favede · Charles R. Probst, Jr.

101 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950
(740) 699-2155
Fax (740) 699-2156
www.belcc.com

"Copy of Journal Entry
of June 24, 2009"

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE SOUTHERN OHIO HEALTH
CARE NETWORK AND THE CONNECTING
APPALACHIA PLAN AS PROPOSED BY SOHCN
AND CONGRESSMAN ZACK SPACE**

Motion made by Commissioner Favede, seconded by Commissioner Probst to adopt the following resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging,

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation,

WHEREAS, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally.

THEREFORE, Belmont County understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens, and makes the SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort for securing ARRA funding,

THEREFORE, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the Belmont County Commissioners fully commit resources and assistance necessary and appropriate to usher the completion of the SOHCN in Belmont County.

THEREFORE, the Belmont County Commissioners fully support the Southern Ohio Health Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Favede	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Probst	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Coffland	<u>Yes</u>

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Journal Entry of June 24, 2009, as recorded in Vol. 90 of the County Commissioners Journal.


Jayne Long, Clerk

County Administration Building
800 Mt. Orab Pike, Suite 101
Georgetown, OH 45121



Phone # (937)378-3956
Fax # (937)378-6324
OH Toll Only (888)454-3956

Brown County Board of Commissioners

Margery Paeltz, President ~ Ralph Jennings, Vice President ~ William R. Geschwind, Member
Beverly Gallimore, Clerk ~ Lisa Spiller, Asst. Clerk

web site: www.browncountyohio.gov ~ email: browncco@bright.net ~ email: browncco@yahoo.com

RESOLUTION 06012009

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission serves the counties of Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton as a Local Development District for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission has been assisting the twelve-county region to improve the social and economic climate and improve infrastructure including access to comprehensive broadband services; and

WHEREAS, Brown County supports the deployment of broadband locally to enhance its rural community and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, Brown County supports a simplified process to seek broadband funding including one application for the 34-county region (16,000 square miles), local enhancements to meet unique county needs, a more attractive regional proposal, and a strong group of partners and endorsements; and

WHEREAS, Brown County supports funding for the Connecting Appalachia proposal through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Commissioners of Brown County hereby supports Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission and the Southern Ohio Health Care Network on the Connecting Appalachia broadband proposal.

ADOPTED THIS 1 DAY OF June 2009

Margery Paeltz
Margery Paeltz, President

Ralph Jennings
Ralph Jennings, Vice President

William R. Geschwind
William R. Geschwind, Member

RECEIVED JUL 29 2009

CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
119 SOUTH LISBON STREET, SUITE 201
CARROLLTON, OHIO 44615-1429

www.carrollcountyohio.us

PHONE 330/627-4869

FAX 330/627-6656

July 27, 2009

Resolution #2009-24

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging,

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation,

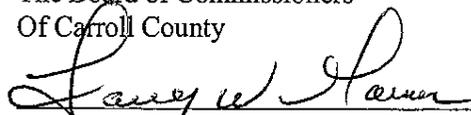
WHEREAS, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally,

THEREFORE, Carroll County understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens, and makes the SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort for securing ARRA funding,

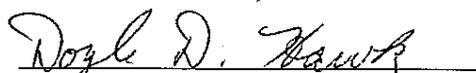
THEREFORE, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the Carroll County Commissioners fully commit resources and assistance necessary and appropriate to usher the completion of the SOHCN in Carroll County.

THEREFORE, Carroll County Commissioners fully support the Southern Ohio Health Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

Sincerely,
The Board of Commissioners
Of Carroll County


Larry W. Garner, President


Thomas A. Wheaton, Vice President


Doyle D. Hawk, Commissioner



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

ROBERT L. PROUD

R. SCOTT CROSWELL III

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY

IN RE: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS...RESOLUTION NUMBER 132-09/RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE SOUTHERN OHIO HEALTH CARE NETWORK ON THE CONNECTING APPALACHIA REGIONAL BROADBAND PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA) UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)...09-0624-002...ADOPTED

Moved by Mr. Proud, seconded by Mr. Croswell, that the Board of County Commissioners approve the following recommendation:

Recommendation of David L. Spinney, County Administrator, to adopt Resolution Number **132-09** resolving to support the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission and the Southern Ohio Health Care Network on the Connecting Appalachia Regional Broadband Proposal for funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) which has been identified as a priority in the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Upon roll call on the foregoing motion, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Proud, Yea; Mr. Croswell, Yes; Mr. Humphrey, Aye.

*I, Judith Kocica, Clerk of the Board of the Clermont County Commissioners, do hereby Certify the above to be a true and exact excerpt from the minutes of the Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners, Clermont County, Ohio, on **June 24, 2009**.*

ATTEST:

Judith Kocica, Clerk of the Board

June 24, 2009



RECEIVED JUL 23 2009

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

Penny J. Traina, President
 Jim Hoppel
 Daniel T. Bing

RESOLUTION #41-2009

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging,

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation,

WHEREAS, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally,

THEREFORE, Columbiana County understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens, and makes the SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort for securing ARRA funding,

THEREFORE, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the Columbiana County Commissioners fully commit resources and assistance necessary and appropriate to usher the completion of the SOHCN in Columbiana County.

THEREFORE, Columbiana County Commissioners fully support the Southern Ohio Health Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

Adopted this 22nd day of July, 2009

VOTING THEREON: COLUMBIANA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Penny Traina Jim Hoppel Daniel Bing

RECEIVED AUG - 5 2009

COSHOCTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
401 ½ Main Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Dane Shryock

Gary Fischer

D. Curtis Lee

RESOLUTION 2009-47

Supporting the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (SOHCN) and the
Connecting Appalachia Plan

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio, is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging,

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation,

WHEREAS, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally,

THEREFORE, Coshocton County understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens and has activated three new wireless broadband service points of presence to date allowing for previously unserved residents and businesses in rural parts of Coshocton County, and is supportive of the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (SOHCN) and Connecting Appalachia's effort to secure federal ARRA funding so as to compliment and not inhibit or conflict with Coshocton County's own broadband deployment initiative now underway,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Coshocton County Commissioners support the efforts of SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia Plan, and will cooperate and assist SOHCN in an appropriate and measured manner to bring affordable broadband to Appalachian Ohio.

Commissioner _____, seconded the motion and the following vote was taken:

Dane R. Shryock yea
Dane R. Shryock Yea/Nay

Gary L. Fischer Yea/Nay

D. Curtis Lee yea
D. Curtis Lee Yea/Nay

Mary Beck
Clerk

Journal 52 Page 425 Dated 8/3/09

I certify that the above document is a true and accurate copy of the original document dated this 3rd day of August, 2009.

Mary Beck
Clerk

RECEIVED JUN - 5 2009

GUERNSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STEVE C. ALLEN
sallen@guernseycounty.org

627 WHEELING AVENUE
SUITE 300
CAMBRIDGE, OHIO 43725-2251

THOMAS J. LAUGHMAN
tlaughman@guernseycounty.org

CHERYL A. EDWARDS, Clerk
cedwards@guernseycounty.org

STEVEN A. DOUGLASS
sdouglass@guernseycounty.org

1-800-887-0938
Fax (740) 432-9359

(740) 432-9200

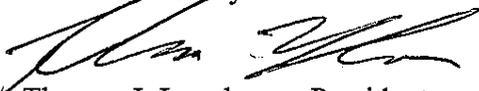
June 3, 2009

Greg DiDonato, Executive Director
Ohio Mideastern Governors Assn.
P.O. Box 130
326 Highland Avenue
Cambridge, OH 43725

Dear Greg,

We, the Board of County Commissioners, Guernsey County, Ohio, support Connecting Appalachia's application for funding private telecommunications companies to provide broadband services in the 34-county Connecting Appalachia service area. Connecting Appalachia does not propose to own and operate its own network, but rather contract for services through competitive bidding. Broadband connectivity is vital to our community and our county and will bring with it opportunities for economic development in this region.

Sincerely,
Guernsey County Commissioners



Thomas J. Laughman, President



Steve C. Allen, Vice President



Steven A. Douglass



Michael Vinka, Chairman
William Host
Barbara Pincola

Harrison County
Board of County Commissioners
100 West Market Street
Cadiz OH 43907
(740) 942-4623 / (740) 942-4090 fax
commissioners34@verizon.net

Brandi Burton, Clerk
Shirley Gilbert, Asst. Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HARRISON COUNTY, OHIO**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-02
OMEGA—Broadband Support Effort

Whereas , the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging, and

Whereas , improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation, and

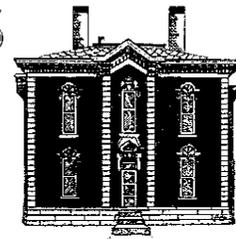
Whereas, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally, and

Whereas, Harrison County understands that broadband is a paramount concern for its residents, and makes the Sothern Ohio Health Care Network, Inc. (SOHCN) and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort for securing ARRA funding, and

Whereas, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the Harrison County Commissioners fully commit the necessary and appropriate assistance to usher the completion of the SOHCN in Harrison County,



HOLMES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



2 COURT STREET, SUITE 14
MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654-2001
PHONE (330) 674-0286 FAX (330) 674-0566
E-MAIL: HCC@VALKYRIE.NET

WEBPAGE: WWW.HOLMESCOUNTY.COM/COMMISSIONERS/

Resolution #06-22-09-2

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SOUTHERN OHIO HEALTH CARE NETWORK AND CONNECTING APPALACHIA PLAN

Whereas, the fact that the broadband remains inaccessible to more that two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging; and

Whereas, improving availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation, and

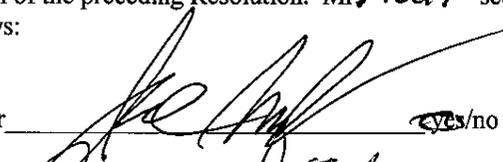
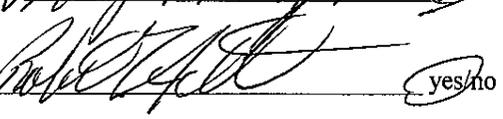
Whereas, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Holmes County understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens and makes SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort and securing ARRA funding; and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia Plan, the Holmes County Commissioners fully commit resources and assistance necessary and appropriate to usher completion of the SOHCN in Holmes County; and

Therefore Be It Even Further Resolved; that Holmes County Commissioners fully support the Southern Ohio Heath Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia Plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

Mr. *Eyler* moved for adoption of the preceding Resolution. Mr. *Ault* seconded the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Joe D. Miller		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
Raymond Eyler		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
Rob Ault		<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no

The below signed Clerk to the Board hereby certifies that the preceding Resolution is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted during the regular business meeting of June 22, 2009 and recorded in Commissioners Journal 44 under that date.


Susan L. Haun, Clerk to the Board
Holmes County Board of Commissioners

RECEIVED JUL 01 2009

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOUTHERN OHIO HEALTH CARE NETWORK
AND THE CONNECTING APPALACHIA PLAN**

WHEREAS, the fact that the broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging,

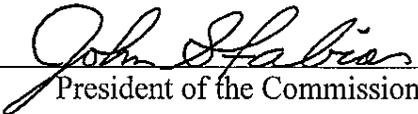
WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region, and nation,

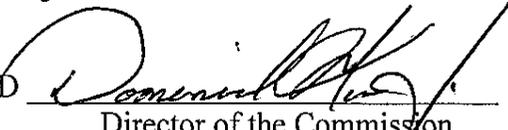
WHEREAS, we believe the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally,

THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission understands broadband is a paramount concern for its citizens, and makes the SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia its primary effort for securing ARRA funding.

THEREFORE, as a supporting partner of the SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission fully commit resources and assistance necessary and appropriate to usher the completion of the SOHCN in Jefferson County.

THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission fully support the Southern Ohio Health Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

DATED 6-24-09 APPROVED 
President of the Commission

DATED 6-24-09 APPROVED 
Director of the Commission

ATTENTION: MISTI CASTO FAX: 374-8038

June 11, 2009.....Continued.....

BUCKEYE HILLS - BROADBAND PROJECT

As requested by Misty Casto, Director of Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Commissioners agreed to support the Appalachian Ohio Regional Broadband Project that will positively impact the 32-county, 16,000 square-mile region.

The region's low population density has long been a hurdle to delivering broadband services and to have metropolitan-class broadband services has begun to take shape through leadership and partnerships. The Resolution which was adopted is as follows:

Resolution J24P16† - Connecting Appalachia

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District serves the counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington as the Local Development District; and,

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills - HVRDD has been assisting the eight-county region to improve social and economic climate and improve infrastructure including access to comprehensive broadband services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Commissioners for Meigs County hereby supports Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District and the Connecting Appalachia Broadband proposal:

Supports the Connecting Appalachia Program - An Agenda for Progress: Moving Forward as a Region, including:

- * A simplified process to seek funding
 - One application for the 32-county region (16,000 square miles)
 - One set of reports from the region to DC
- * Local Enhancements to meet unique county needs
- * Strength of a regional proposal (More attractive to DC)
- * A strong group of partners and endorsements

Supports including the Meigs County Plan with the Connecting Appalachia program proposal for funding through The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) process for broadband initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The foregoing was moved by Mr. Bartrum, and seconded by Mr. Anderson. Vote on roll call resulted: Mr. Davenport, yea; Mr. Anderson, yea; Mr. Bartrum, yea.

CDBG - SYRACUSE COMMUNITY CENTER - BID

Motion was made by Mr. Bartrum, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following bid as recommended by the Community Center's Board of Directors:

**Quality Window Systems
3700 King Hill Road
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769**

\$45,000.00

Vote on roll call resulted: Mr. Davenport, yea; Mr. Anderson, yea; Mr. Bartrum, yea.

CDBG - SYRACUSE VFD - BID

As recommendation was received from Syracuse Mayor Eric Cunningham, the following bid was accepted, with motion being made by Mr. Bartrum, which was then seconded by Mr. Anderson:

**The Bildit Group, LLC
PO Box 718
New Matmoras, Ohio 45767**

\$13,920.00

This is for installation of doors and windows for the Syracuse Fire Department Building, with funds being used from the Community Development Block Grant. Vote on roll call resulted: Mr. Davenport, yea; Mr. Anderson, yea; Mr. Bartrum, yea.

APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, and seconded by Mr. Bartrum, to approve the following request:

\$5,533.73 from K000-K22 into K500-K12, Engineer



- Susan Culbertson
Clerk

- John D. Bates
390 Jeffrey Lane
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
jdbates@muskingumcounty.org

- Brian D. Hill
2585 Asbury Chapel Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
bdhill@muskingumcounty.org

- Jerry L. Lavy
537 W. Highland Drive
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
jllavy@muskingumcounty.org

COMMISSIONERS

401 Main Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701-3519

RES 09-0919

The following action was taken by the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners at its meeting today,
June 18, 2009:

RE: EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE CONNECTING APPALACHIA BROADBAND PLAN-
MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Lavy, that this Board of County Commissioners, Muskingum County, Ohio adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development that much more challenging, and

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhances collaborations around the state, region and nation, and

WHEREAS, we believe that the plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education, and business enterprise both locally and regionally, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of County Commissioners of Muskingum County, Ohio does hereby express its support for the Connecting Appalachia broadband plan.

Roll call: Bates, absent; Lavy, yea; Hill, yea. Motion carried.

sc

cc: File Copy
Congressman Zack Space
OMEGA

Copied on: 06-18-09
Copied by: *JLC*

Adopted June 18, 2009:

Susan Culbertson
Commissioners' Clerk or Deputy Clerk

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

125 East High Avenue, Room 205
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
(330) 365-3240

Chris Abbuhl
Kerry Metzger
Jim Seldenright

Jane Clay
Clerk

RECEIVED JUL 01 2009

Crystal DiGenova
Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 69
JUNE 29, 2009

RESOLUTION (616-2009) BROADBAND SUPPORT

It was moved Seldenright, seconded by Commissioner Metzger, to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the fact that broadband remains inaccessible to more than two-thirds of Appalachian Ohio is a disparity which hinders progress in our region and makes the already difficult task of rural economic development much more challenging,

WHEREAS, improving the availability of broadband to our local communities will create jobs, increase opportunities for healthcare, education and private industry and provide the conduit necessary for enhanced collaborations around the state, region and nation,

WHEREAS, we believe that the proposed plan will rapidly and responsibly advance the broadband agenda across Ohio's Appalachian region and will bring progress and prosperity to the region by increasing opportunities for health care, education and business enterprise both locally and regionally,

THEREFORE, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY understands broadband is an important factor in the lives of its citizens, and makes SOHCN and Connecting Appalachia one of its primary efforts for securing ARRA funding,

THEREFORE, as a supporting partner of the proposed SOHCN and the Connecting Appalachia plan, the TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS hereby commit to provide appropriate assistance as needed to bring about the completion of the proposed SOHCN plan in TUSCARAWAS COUNTY.

THEREFORE, the TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS fully support the Southern Ohio Health Care Network and the Connecting Appalachia plan as proposed by the SOHCN and Congressman Zack Space.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kerry Metzger, yes;
Jim Seldenright, yes;

I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct account of the proceedings as had by and before us on the day and year first written above.

Jane Clay
Clerk of the Board

Escape
Experience
Enjoy



The Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio met in regular session on the 16th day of June, 2009 with the following members present:

Samuel R. Cook, President
Steven W. Weber
Cora A. Marshall

Mr. Weber moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills-HVRDD serves the counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington as the Local Development District; and

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills-HVRDD has been assisting the eight-county region to improve social and economic climate and improve infrastructure including access to comprehensive broadband services:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners for Washington County hereby supports Buckeye Hills-HVRDD and the Connecting Appalachia Broadband proposal:

Supports the Connecting Appalachia Program – An Agenda for Progress: Moving Forward as a Region including:

- *A simplified process to seek funding
 - One application for the 32-county region (16,000 square miles)
 - One set of reports from the region to D.C.
- *Local Enhancements to meet unique county needs
- *Strength of a regional proposal (More attractive to D.C.)
- *A strong group of partners and endorsements

Supports including the Washington County plan with the Connecting Appalachia program proposal for funding through The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) process for broadband initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Ms. Marshall seconded the foregoing Resolution.

Calling of the roll resulted in the following vote.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Samuel R. Cook, aye
Samuel R. Cook, President

Steven W. Weber, aye
Steven W. Weber

Cora A. Marshall, aye
Cora A. Marshall