PONTIAC COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #429

District Website www.pontiac429.org

SUPERINTENDENT Steve Graham grahamste@p429.k12.ii.us

117 West Livingston Street Pontico, Illinois 61764 (815) 842-1533 Fax (815) 844-5773

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kel Krenz, Principal (815) 844-3023 Fox: (815) 844-5773

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Maggie Janssen, Principal (815) 844-3924 Fax: (815) 844-4720

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Michael Weaver, Principal (815) 844-3687 Fax: (815) 844-2710

> PONTIAC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Judy Donze, Principal Josh DeLong. Dean (815) 842-4343 Fax: (815) 844-6230

> > SPECIAL NEEDS OFFICE Cheryl Corrigon, Director (815) 844-5448 Fax: (815) 844-4050

March 11, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Pontiac School District #429 is excited to express our full support for the highspeed broadband project being proposed through the ICN Broadband Stimulus Funds Application. We as a school district are eager to join such a project that will deliver exceptional network access to the commodity Internet, while providing high-speed access to other local entitles in our community and surrounding area.

For many years our community has been underserved in the area of networking. While being part of the successful I-55 corridor communities, we have unfortunately not been able to establish a large network build-out in the Pontiac area due to our physical location. The ICN project brings a breath of fresh air to our school district and our community which will allow for technologies that were previously unavailable.

As we support ICN we envision technologies being able to provide metropolitan type access to our school's FTEs and student body. Due to a multi-building layout, our network access from site to site is very expensive which has lead to a limited experience in the area of technology. If deployed the ICN project would allow our students and staff to have access to a collaborative shared networks, centralized SAN storage solutions, and provide bandwidth intensive Internet based online learning technologies that are currently out of question.

We believe that this collaborative effort through ICN is exactly what our region has needed for some time. While distance separates our local communities we are all faces with increased budgets, increased expectations, all the while continuing to lose what we are all here to do; which is provide the groundwork for a path to excellence.

I urge the deciding council to choose the ICN project as it will bring the future to our doorstep.

Sincerely,

Michael McCabe Director of Technology Pontiac CCSD #429

PONTIAC COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED

SCHOOL

DISTRICT

#429

District Website

SUPERINTENDENT Steve Gignori: grohoms:e:3p429,842,84is

117 West Uvorgsten Skeel Pooline, Edinais 61764 (816) 842-1533 Fox (816) 844-5773

OBITION: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kel Kreaz, Principal (815) 844-3023 Fox: (815) 844-6773

UNCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Assigna Lonsson, Prancipal (815) 8441-3924 Fox: (815) 844-4720

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Michael Weaver, Principol (815) 844-3667 Fex: (915) 844-2710

> PONTIAC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL July Conze, Principal Josh Celong, Deen (\$15) 842-4343 Fox. (\$15) 844-6280

> > SPECIAL NEEDS CFECC Cheryl Contgot, Dweclor (815) 844-5448 Fax: (815) 844-4050

January 21, 2010

Group for CIRBN LLC Scott Genung, Director of Telecommunications and Networking, ISU CIRBN LLC

To CIRBN LLC & Co-Applicants:

Pointag School District #429 is excited to express our full support for the high-speed broadband project being proposed through the CIRBN (Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network) LLC. We as a school district are eager to join such a project that will delive exceptional network access to the commodity Internet, while providing high-speed access to other local entities in our community and surrounding area.

For many years our community has been underserved in the area of networking. While being part of the successful 1-55 corridor communities, we have enfortunately not been able to establish a large network build-out in the Pontiac area due to our physical location. The CIRBN project brings a breath of fresh air to our school district and our community which will allow for technologies that were previously unavailable.

As we support CIRBN we envision technologies being able to provide metropolitan type access to our school's FTEs and student body. Due to a multi-building layout, our network access from site to site is very expensive which has lead to a limited experience in the area of technology. If deployed the CIRBN project would allow our students and steff to have access to a collaborative shared networks, centralized SAN storage solutions, and provide bandwidth intensive Internet based online learning technologies that are currently out of the question.

We believe that this collaborative effort through CIRBN is exactly what our region has needed for some time. While distance separates our local communities we are all faced with increased budgets, increased expectations, all the while continuing to lose what we are all here to do; which is to provide the groundwork for a path to excellence.

Lurge the deciding council to choose CIRBN as it will bring the future to our doorstep.

Sincerely,

Mike Fairfield, President. Board of Education

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

1100 INDIANA AVENUE PONTIAC, ILLINOIS 61764 Phone 815-844-6113

March 8, 2010

Group for CIRBN LLC Scott Genung, Director of Telecommunications and Networking at Illinois State University

Dear CIRBN LLC and Co-Applicants,

I am writing this letter in support of the CIRBN Broadband Stimulus Grant Application. I am the Technology Coordinator at Pontiac Twp. High School District 90. Pontiac Twp. High School is a 9-12 district serving around 850 students and around 120 faculty and staff members. The county career center is also physically attached to the high school where it serves Pontiac Twp. High School students plus around 150 students from area schools in Livingston County. Pontiac is a community of 12,000 people located in Central Illinois.

We currently have an 11MB fiber connection to Illinois Century Network. Though Internet usage in the District grows continually, our options for increasing bandwidth to meet our needs are still limited and cost prohibitive. Not only does our Internet usage grow, the types of resources and activities we need to access, including streaming video, require greater and greater bandwidth. The bandwidth that will be made possible under CIRBN would significantly impact the educational opportunities that we can provide our students.

Pontiac Township High School District 90 supports the CIRBN Broadband stimulus grant proposal and we look forward to the possibilities it can provide to our District. If I can be of any assistance in advancing CIRBN's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-844-6113 or by email at krausea@pontiac.k12.ii.us.

Sincerely,

Amy Krause

Technology Coordinator

amy Krause

Pontiac Twp. High School District 90

Pana Community Unit School Dist. No. 8

14 East Main Street P.O. Box 377 Pana, II. 62557 TELEPHONE: 217-562-1500 FAX: 217-562-1501

3/8/2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I'm writing you this letter to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. I am the Technology Coordinator for Pana Community Unit District #8. We currently employ about 300 staff and serve 1500 students. Our community is comprised of primarily rural lower income residents. The population of the community is slightly under 6,000 residents according to the 2000 census. Due to our relatively isolated location the community and school district is left with few acceptable options for high speed Internet service. A publicly funded fiber optic network brought to our community and school district would provide a much needed boost in competition and choice regarding Internet Access.

Pana has fiber optic cabling laid through the community but it does not directly serve this community. The local phone company, Illinois Consolidated, uses it for backhaul purposes. They are not willing to provide direct fiber optic service to the community or school district at this time.

Rural residents in the north or south Pana Township are out of range for cable or DSL Internet Access. The FCC's ruling that allowed Telco's to not serve rural areas with DSL service combined with the lack of Cable Internet to rural customers has been devastating to this community. Rural residents are left with choosing between Dial-Up or Satellite Internet. Neither solution is acceptable from a price or performance stand point.

Board of Education Donald Ailen, President David Koome, Vice President Karen Mizaut, Secretary Stephen Beyers John Metzgre Clint Esor Asinn Schuler

Dr. David R. Lett, Superintendent David Dively, Assistant Superintendent Principals
Senior High, Gayle McRoberts
Assistant Procental, Heath Stoom
Junior High, Paul Lauff
Jefferson MN, Debra Zurck
Lincoln, Richard Nicolas
Washington, David Abell
Pana Adult Centur, Dan Krashi

Pana Community Unit School Dist. No. 8

14 East Main Street P.O. Box 377 Pana, II. 62557 TELEPHONE: 217-562-1500 FAX: 217-562-1501

Pana School District currently has an annexed school located a few miles East in Tower Hill Illinois. This school lies in a community with a different Cable provider vs what is available in Pana. Due to this incompatibility our remaining option for high speed Internet is the local phone company monopoly, Illinois Consolidated. The emergence of widespread rich media delivery technology in our classrooms via smart boards, projectors, etc. has leapt over our ability to provide the network bandwidth necessary to serve those needs. We believe prices would decrease and speeds would increase if we had even one suitable alternative. The community would be better served with an expanded choice in Internet Providers.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-562-6533 or by email ssavage@panaschools.com

Sincerely,

Scott Savage

District Technology Coordinator



OLYMPIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #16

Brad K. Hutchison, Superintendent

Dr. Andrew S. Wise, Business and Operations Manager

Administration Office 903 E. 800 North Road Stanford, IL 61774-9612

Phone: 309-379-6011 Fax: 309-379-2328

Board of Education

Laura Cremeens, President Steve Matter, Vice-President Trena Glenn, Secretary Kevin Frazier Carolyn Hansen Doug Maris Michael Turner

Olympia High School Lance Thurman, Principal Phone: 309-379-5911 Fax: 309-379-2583

Olympia Middle School Dan Lamboley, Principal Phone, 309-379-5941 Fax: 309-379-5411

Olympia North Elementary Fred Shears, Principal Phone, 309-963-4514 Fax: 309-963-3969

Olympia South Elementary Laura O'Donnell, Principal Phone: 217-648-2302 Fax: 217-648-5248

Olympia West Elementary Dr. Nicole Rummel, Principal Phone: 309-392-2671 Fax. 309-392-2497 Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Department of Commerce Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

With anticipation and hope for the future, I am writing on behalf of the Olympia Community Unit School District No. 16 to express my support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network project (CIRBN).

The Olympia School District encompasses eight communities spread across 377 square miles in central Illinois. Our rural District relies heavily upon the communication links that technology provides. For example, our microwave/wireless WAN and VoIP phone system gives us reliable and cost-effective phone communication between our school buildings which stand miles apart.

Though internet usage in the District grows continually, our options for increasing bandwidth to meet our needs are still limited and cost prohibitive. Not only does our internet usage grow, the types of resources and activities we need to access, including streaming video, require greater and greater bandwidth. The bandwidth that will be made possible under CIRBN would significantly impact the educational opportunities that we can provide our students.

Also of interest to me are the potential benefits our communities and families could gain. Many of the homes in our District have dial-up as their only connectivity option. With the development that CIRBN could foster, commercial providers would show greater interest in extending high-speed access to the unserved and underserved members of the Olympia community.

I support the CIRBN grant proposal and look forward to the possibilities it can provide to my District and the people it serves.

Sincerely,

Brad K. Hatokison

Brad K. Hutchison Superintendent

Murphysboro 186 Schools

Mr. Christopher Grode Superintendent

819 Weinut Sireet Murphysboro, IL 62864. (618) 684-3781 (618) 684-2465 (FAX)

Administrativo Aseto.

Mrs. Janel Bush Business Menager

Mr. Sleve Configura Chief Information Officer

Board of Education

Mr. Mike Austin Provident

Mr. Mike Cripps Vice-President

Mrs. Julie Erbos Mrs. Calliy Layno Mr. Stave McBride Mrs. Kristi Miller Mr. Jini Stawari

Murphysboro Community Unit School District No. 186

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Murphysboro CUSD #186 is pleased to offer support to the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our school serves 2000 students and allows other entities to attach to our existing network, including the City of Murphysboro, the Regional Office of Education, and Tri-County Special Education Cooperative. All are located in Jackson county Illinois, as rural county in downstate Illinois. This project provides the hope for much lower costs for connectivity to high-speed network resources, including the Internet by allowing a middle mile transport on the network and/or providing tast mile transport to the local community.

Additional bandwidth would allow industry to be more open to coming into our community, where we have few businesses left. The local school district is now the largest employer in our community. Right now, the costs associated with middle-mile and tast-mile transport are so high that no one will even consider bringing a technology based company into our community.

The increased bandwidth will allow a more level playing field for all of education, but will also allow us to work cooperatively sharing resources at a great distance.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-684-3781 or by email at scarrington@mhs.org.

Steve Carrington

Chief Information Officer

Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District No. 1

801 W. Wall Street Mulberry Grove, IL 62262

Unit Office (618) 326-8812

Elementary (618) 326-8811

High School/Jr, High

(618) 326-8221

(618) 326-8482 FAX

FAX

(618) 326-8482

FAX

(618) 326-7504

March 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

We here at Mulberry Grove Community Unit #1 are interested in and in total support of the Illinois Century Network and its application for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. This type of program is needed to assist small rural districts as ours to offer the same opportunities to our children.

Please contact my office if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Michael Gauch Superintendent

Mulberry Grove Community Unit #1

MOUNT ZION HIGH SCHOOL

305 South Henderson . Mount Zion, IL 62549

Darbe D. Brinkoetter Superintendent 217/864-2366 FAX 864-2200



Gregory L. Bradley Principal 217/864-2363 FAX 864-5815

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The Mt. Zion School District #3 supports the State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant application. As a school district we need to have a robust Internet connection for our students and teachers to access instructional classroom data from the Internet. Teachers want to down load streaming video and other Internet sites. With our present Internet this downloading is very slow. Our school district is made up of around 2500 students and around 200 staff members in rural central Illinois. Many of our students who live in the rural area of our school district still have dial up Internet.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, there will be many advantages to our staff and students. Many of the software programs we use are Internet based. Students will be able to access these programs and not get kicked out. Student and teachers will also be able get quick response Assessment Testing which is tied to student achievement. No Child Left Behind is all about student achievement. Broadband Internet will help us address improving student achievement in our district.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (217) 864-2369 or by email at edwardsk@mtzion.k12.il.us.

Sincerely,

Karen Edwards

Director of Technology

Edwards

Mt. Zion School District

Mt. Zion, IL 62549

McLean County Unit District No. 5 1809 West Hovey Avenue

Normal, IL 61761-4339

Office of the Superintendent

Phone: 309,452,4476 Fax: 309.462.7418 E-mail: district@unit6.org

February 1, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois includes 11 congressional townships and serves parts of Bloomington, all of Carlock, Hudson, Normal, and Towanda and rural areas surrounding each of these communities. Unit 5 employs over 1,800 full and part time staff members (certified and educational support personnel) to educate over 12,750 students. The district consists of more than 200 square miles, with 15 elementary, 3 junior high schools, and 2 high school buildings. In 2010, the district will open two new elementary school facilities with an additional middle school opening in 2011.

With 28 facilities (including the Unit 5 Office) to maintain, the district pays for leased fiber connectivity for operational as well as instructional technology from a network provider. Once established, the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) will be essential in providing continued success through infrastructural advancement over the past four years. Although we are currently in a contract with a provider through 2013, the monthly expenditures are a premium cost to the district. The contract will expire at or near the time allocated for CIRBN completion. This puts the district in position to take advantage of the CIRBN build out and construction while continuing to provide quality services to our district end users. In supporting the CIRRN, Unit 5 will utilize the broadband fiber network to provide services such as high speed internet to our buildings through the ICN and other providers. Unit 5 will also continue to utilize bandwidth allocation for processing student records, attendance, data warehousing, and course management. The network will also provide connectivity for our access control, clock, HVAC, and VoIP telephone systems. Currently, our district provides extended connectivity through wireless networking that will be completed by the summer of 2010. By providing wireless infrastructure, the district plans to continue piloting a one to one lactop initiative at an elementary school within the

McLean County Unit District #5 is proactive in utilizing both operational and instructional technologies to advance efficiency and effectiveness within our district. The district strongly supports the efforts of the CIRBN and the regional attempt to cost control and manage a local fiber-optic network. In this effort, we will work diligently to promote, plan, and assist with services in kind in order to facilitate lower monthly costs for equal or better service in the future.

Sincerely.

Gaup C. Nelhaus Dr. Gary C. Niehaus Superintendent

McHenry Community High School

DISTRICT 156

TERESA A. LANE, Ed. D., SUPERINTENDENT
GINA R. SWINNEY, Ed. D., ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
DARRELL J. MOON, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
VICTORIA S. PIEKARSKI, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS
BRENT L. RABY, DIRECTOR OF GRANTS & LEARNING



Robert O. Swartzloff Center for Educational Services

4716 W. Crystal Lake Road McHenry, Illinois 60050 (815) 385-7900 Fax (815) 344-7153

March 8, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Please accept this letter as our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. McHenry H.S. District 156 is comprised of two high schools serving approximately 2,600 students in the Northern Illinois communities of McHenry, Lakemoor, McCullom Lake, Wonder Lake and adjacent unincorporated areas. The ICN fiber project would provide the required bandwidth to meet the curriculum goals identified in our district improvement plan.

The Illinois Century Network supports our core student management, communications, remote access and credit recovery programs. Without this connectivity our students, staff and parents would be at a severe disadvantage in meeting our district curriculum goals.

In our geographic area broadband service providers are limited to only AT&T and Comcast. The net result is minimal provider competition and no cost effective alternative. An updated ICN fiber network would provide the resources required at an affordable price to education.

If I can be of further assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (815) 759-2028 or by email at zeleki@dist156.org.

Sincerely.

Joseph Zelek

Director of Network Technology Services

McHenry H.S. District 156

McHenry, IL 60050



Mattoon Community Unit School District #2

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We are one of the many extremely satisfied participants to the Illinois Century Network. Mattoon is located in central Illinois and currently has a population of 17,000 comprised of 3,300 students. As the school district continues to provide a quality education to students, it is imperative that our support and resources are kept to the same high quality standard.

We must recognize that technology and the digital world continues to grow. As this happens, so must our resources, capacity and bandwidth. With the variety of web-capable portable devices, many individuals have instant access to the Internet. Realizing this trend is a reality; Mattoon Schools has implemented an on-line student management system that allows for staff to keep an electronic gradebook, assignments, student fees, attendance records and grade history. As grades are entered, parents and student can check on-line to find current grades as well as assignments. This information is invaluable and real-time. This is just one of the projects that Mattoon Community School District has been able to provide with the assistance of the ICN.

I applaud the ICN for seeking for higher bandwidth capabilities. This will enable us to deliver information more efficiently to parents and students both during the school day and after hours. Also, it will allow for teachers and students to access current digital media immediately.

Please feel free to contact me to further discuss the benefits and needs of the broadband stimulus funding application from the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Christopher Roberts

District Computer Network Director

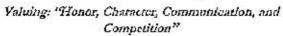
1701 Charleston Avenue

Mattoon, IL 61938

Email: robertscs@mattoon.k12.il.us



LeRoy CUSD #2 600 East Pine Street LeRoy, IL 61752



Eria Cena, Elementary Principal Gary R. Tipsord. Superintendent

Steve Reschlee, Jr.-Sr. High Principal

syww.lcruy.k12.il.us

Phone: (309) 962-4211

Fax: (309) 962-9312

March 12, 2010

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

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

LeRoy Community School District No. 2 serves the community of LeRoy, IL with approximately 3500 residents. The School District has approximately 900 students and 120 staff. We are located in Central Illinois on Interstate 74 between Bloomington and Champaign. Our School District currently accesses the Internet in three manners. We have a location with ADSL (768kbps), a location with cable Internet service (6mbps), and a location with a contracted fiber. connection (8mbps) with the local cable provider to the ICN network in Rantoul. Each connection has costs associated. We pay on average about \$10,000/year in Internet costs. between all connection services.

We are seeking to unify our campus connections to better serve our staff and students. Our biggest problem we face is maintaining filters at each location providing a connection to the Internet. This becomes a very difficult and hard to manage problem.

Because of our rural location and school district we are limited to lower bandwidth services at higher costs as well as locations which can't get faster service due to older carrier hardware or services just not available in those areas of the community. We see peak internet usage causing certain delays in streamed services such as Discovery Channel Online.

CIRBN will provide many benefits to our school district as well as our community. We see great possibilities in increased speeds and connectivity to unify our services as well as provide higher speed connections to services such as Discovery Online.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Tipsord, Superintendent

Personal Authorized legally to act on behalf of the Entity

GRT/kin:

LZ

LAKE ZURICH COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

95

Phone (847) 438-2831

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER 400 S. Old Rand Road Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047-2459 www.LZ95.org

Fax (847) 438-6702

March 7, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the students, teachers, parents, and community of Lake Zurich School District who need your support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our community is committed to providing a technology rich learning environment for students. We know that in order for our students to be competitive in a global society, they will need 21st century learning skills. It is for this reason that, even in these economically challenging times, we continue to prioritize our school and district resources to attain the necessary network infrastructure, student access to laptops and desktops, and professional development for our staff to ensure that our classrooms have access to learning technologies.

However we recognize that we cannot reach this goal alone. We need your help in providing the resources to ICN to provide the last mile transport to our community. We have made the investment of providing 100MB connectivity to each our school buildings, but our "bottle neck" is the access to our internet service provider (ICN). Although we are grateful for the current connectivity and good service the ICN provides to Lake Zurich School District, it is insufficient. Ten buildings, 6500 students and 600 staff share 50 MB of Internet. In a world where many homes have Internet connectivity of over 8MB, 50MB is clearly not adequate bandwidth to meet the needs of our learning community.

Our students are unable to access digital content and web resources. We filter streaming of multimedia because we do not have adequate bandwidth. With additional bandwidth, our students could be more connected to the real world experiences and the world becomes their classroom as we leverage the increasing availability of quality digital content.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847 540 3403 or by email at crystal.steker@lz95.org

Sincerely-

Director of Technology



KANELAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #302

KANELAND HIGH SCHOOL

47W326 KESLINGER ROAD
MAPLE PARK, ILLINOIS 60151
PHONE: 630/365-5100 FAX: 630/365-8421

March 5, 2010

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

Re: Letter of support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Kaneland School District #302, located 40 miles west of Chicago servicing 4,732 students from the communities of, Elburn, Maple Park, Sugar Grove, Virgil and Montgomery, is currently not receiving adequate benefit from the broadband stimulus grant. Everyday there are more online resources for our students, but we are unable to provide them to our students. The benefit from more broadband will open the education that we provide for our students to the next level of learning.

Due to insufficient bandwidth, there are currently many resources to which our students do not have access. Increasing our bandwidth opens access to online resources that we now filter because of insufficient bandwidth. I have spent years trying to have the bandwidth increased here at Kaneland. I was able to get fiber from ATT but we cannot afford to purchase additional bandwidth beyond the small amount the ICN provides.

Kancland School District is a rural school district with limited options for robust internet access. Att, Comcast and Mediacom have not been able to provide the access we need, or if they can provide it, it is not at a reasonable cost.

We currently filter most streaming video and audio, due to bandwidth constraints. The educational value of this is great and we need to provide this to our students.

If there is any way I can help support the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me by phone at 630-365-8284 or email me at twolf@kaneland.org.

Sincerely,

Tim Wolf

Kancland Director of Technology

Tim wolf



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

711 M. Balain, Bleandagain Bleach biston. Wilhelm warmheintrialtealleanningtonung. Phone (305) 825 2192. Enn. (309) 825-2243.

March 14, 2010

Start A General Director of Telecommunications and Heaverking Black State University 195 Villiams Fell Annex Morrapi, II. 61799-3500

RE: CIRBIR - Broadband Opportunity, Department of Commerce

Scott.

I am writing this inter in support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband (Network (CIRSN) project and proposal. The opportunity to have a fiber-optic connection to tac Internet from our Pavish Center would greatly improve our ability to utilize religious and learning resources on the World Wide Web, now and in the Future.

As a private institution, it is unlikely that our church would be able to siford the implementation and installation of a fiber optic network any other way in the foresectable future. The same bandwidth that we can get from a fiber optic network of this sort would cost as more than we could over all ord purchasing it from any of the phone or cable companies.

The future of how we connect and provide communications to our parishloners is going through many changes with the advent of the internet, in order to keep pace with the rest of the world, need to have access to all the resources that the internet can bring into our mission. No one knows what the future of technology holds, and we feel it is imperative that our charch is prepared for the 21st Century. The installation and implements and of such a network would allow our church to be hetter prepared for the changes that the fitture will certainly bring.

Sincerely,

Farner Doug Hencessy

Pastor

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Serving the Communities of Alhambra, Grantfork, Highland, New Douglas, and Pierron

MICHAEL SUTTON SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



LYNNE S. NEWTON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - INSTRUCTION
TIMOTHY C. BAIR
BUSINESS MANAGER

March 11, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

As a downstate K12 Illinois school district I would like to express my support to the ICN in their efforts to bring high speed internet to underserved areas like our school and community. Our school has a student population of approximately 3100 students that are drawn from six communities covering a 181 square mile area in parts of three Southern Illinois counties. Our largest community has limited and expensive choices where high-speed internet access is concerned. Our five smaller communities have virtually no choice or access at all when it comes to high speed internet connectivity. All of our communities would benefit greatly from a large-scale state fiber optic network. Our largest community is in the process of constructing its own fiber network, and a partnership with ICN as a provider could help boost the effectiveness of that fiber deployment as well as offer another competitive choice that could help control cost to the school and community. The smaller communities in our district would also be able to benefit by having the choice to tap into a fiber backbone to help bring high-speed connectivity to those communities.

In the past several years we have been forced to delay moving forward with several valuable education programs to support both our reading and math improvement initiatives because of our limited bandwidth. We have also found it necessary to restrict the use of Web 2.0 applications as well as other bandwidth intensive multimedia resources. Our district has also purchased textbooks that have a wide variety of resources available via the internet, but we are unable to bring those resources to bear at school or in the community because of limited internet connectivity.

We would also realize a cost savings in staff time that is currently used to enforce bandwidth limitations and extraordinary supervision that is needed to prevent a handful of students from using all of our internet bandwidth for one specific project or activity. We would also be able to make more complete use of real-time communication tools such as Skype and other IM programs that could connect students from our school to children across the globe. With the availability of a robust middle mile connection to support our bandwidth needs we would be able to move our school into the forefront of technology usage.

Funding of this project will go a long way to bring equity of access to many areas of the state of Illinois and I would ask that serious consideration be made to fund and sustain this project. I am available to answer any specific questions about the positive impact this would have on our school and community, so if I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-654-2106 or by email at mfred@highlandcusd5.org

Sincerely

Matt Fredericksen

Chief Educational Technology Officer

Treslevikous

Highland CUSD #5

Phone: 618-654-2106 ext 3412

Fax: 618-654-5424

HEYWORTH COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4

522 East Main Street Heyworth, IL 61745

Phone: 309/473-3727 Fax: 309/473-2220

January 21, 2010

CIRBN

Atm, Scott Genung Illinois State University 105 Williams Hall Annex Normal, IL 61790-3500

CIRBN;

This letter to you today is in support of the proposed CIRBN. I am the Superintendent of Schools of the Heyworth Community Unit School District #4 and am sending this letter of support for our school district and community.

Heyworth is a 3000 person community located at the southern end of the CIRBN area. Heyworth is a bedroom community for Bloomington Normal with a strong rural and farm base. The Heyworth School District encompasses 92 square miles, much of which is prime farm ground. The community supports several small businesses, an excellent library, a volunteer fire department, and excellent services supporting our community as provided by the Village of Heyworth. The village itself continues to grow as people moving into the area seek the convenience of the larger Bloomington urban area combined with the case and lifestyle as offered in a smaller community.

As the areas around us grow, the Heyworth School district continues to grow. Our student base has been on a continual increase over the past twenty (20) years. We continue to outgrow our facilities. Similarly, we continue to outgrow our technology. We recently upgraded our internet bandwidth and are already experiencing days where we "peak out" our level of access. Our students and staff continue to grow in our usage of internet connectivity as integrated into our curriculum on a daily basis.

We are thrilled that the CIRBN will be providing improved educational opportunities for students all around our area. We wholeheartedly support the grant and are excited for this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Randali G. Merker

Superintendent

40 South Main Street Harrisburg, IL 62946

Phone: 618 • 253-7637

Fax: 618 • 253-2097

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Web Site: www.hbg.saline.k12.il.us

March 9, 2010

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Harrisburg Community Unit School District is located in Southern Illinois in a rural location with limited options for broadband to the community. Our community has approximately 9000 people. This grant would be a huge benefit by providing broadband to our community.

In order for our school district to reach the Illinois Century Network we contract with Mediacom to provide us the line and that cost is 1050.00 per month. To our district in rural Southern Illinois this is a lot of money.

Our community businesses and people are limited on the carriers/providers in the area and this would benefit the school district, disadvantaged groups, elderly, hospitals, libraries and more.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-253-7637 x1011 or by email at cblack@harrisburg3.org.

Sincerely,

Cindy Black NCLB, Media and Technology Coordinator Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3 40 S. Main Street Harrisburg, IL 62946



Mr. Dennis J. Smith Superintendent

Mrs. Kim Williams Special Education Coordinator

Mrs. Cindy Black Media/Technology Coordinator & NCLB

North Central Association Accredited

Kids First



Hampton School District No. 29

Tom Berg, Superintendent 206 5th street Hompton, IL 61256 0230

> Telephone (309) 755 0693 Fox (309) 755 0694

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a small school district of 260 students in the Quad Cities area. Education technology is rapidly changing, and it is absolutely necessary for us to keep up with these changes. The ICN fiber project is vital to this endeavor

The use of technology in education requires greater bandwidth as software applications contain increasing amounts of audio and video. Greater bandwidth means more access to the software, the elimination of wait times, and better learning for our students. The quality software programs make instantaneous decisions regarding a student's level of functioning, and presents curriculum to meet those needs. Greater bandwidth means applications respond faster, and students do not have to wait, thereby keeping interest and motivation at a high level.

The only solution to wait time and slow applications that we have available is quite expensive broadband from our local cable provider. In today's financial environment, it is not a realistic solution. Our clientele is quite socio-economically diverse, and many do not have access outside of school.

I believe that a major benefit of the new ICN fiber network is increased learning opportunities for our students. In addition, a high quality, efficiently operating fiber network helps instill a love of learning in our students, and increases the likelihood of a positive school experience for all involved.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 309-755-0693 or thomberg@riroc.k12.il.us.

Sincerely.

Tom Berg

Superintendent

Hampton School District # 29

GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY UNIT School District #9 1947 Adams Street Granite City, IL 62040

3/9/2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I would like to show my support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband fiber project. The Granite City School District services 7,000 students, 800 Staff, and many parents and caretakers. It would be a huge benefit to the school district to have additional bandwidth available for expansion of the ever growing web based learning curriculum and parent communication.

Bandwidth is critical to provide us with the pipeline we need to expand and grow our online communities, web applications, portals to keep parents, students, and community active and involved in an evolving world and curriculum. To meet the growing need of bandwidth for additional computers for students in a one-to-one environment, security systems for the district, and streaming media requirements. Currently we have 27mbps which is less than Charter communications allocates for some home users.

With the additional bandwidth from the ICN we will be able to continue expansion of the critical programs listed above.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-451-5800 or by email at zack.suhre@gcsd9.net.

Sincerely,

Žack Suhre

Director Information Systems Granite City School District #9

Granite City, IL 62040



Glenbard Township High School District 87

Administration Center A 596 Crescent Boulevard A Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137-4297 A Phone: (630) 469-9100 A Fax: (630) 469-9107

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am the Directory of Technology Services for the Glenbard High School District #87 in Glen Ellyn IL (DuPage). Glenbard serves over 9000 students in grades 9-12. We are struggling to provide our students and teaching staff with adequate access to the Internet and all of the content it has to offer. The existing connection provided by the Illinois Century Network (ICN) fall far short from a useful amount. Currently ICN provides us with a 20MB connection for our entire fleet of 3500+ district computers. This amount extremely under serves our community as several students experience 20+MB connections using their single computer at home. Schools must be provided with a substantially increased connection to the Internet's media rich content and web resources.

If we had increased bandwidth we could provide students with consistent access to useful online resources including web training videos, virtual campus/classrooms, and additional streaming content.

This year we have had to seek additional bandwidth from AT&T and Comcast at high costs. While this provides somewhat improved access it has prevented us from purchasing other valuable classroom resources in favor of this utility.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this in greater detail if needed. I can be reached at the number below if needed.

Sincerely,

Nate Dhamets

Director of Technology Services Glenbard Township District 87 596 Crescent Boulevard Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4297 Unified Phone & Fax (630) 942-7686



Downers Grove Grade School District 58

We Envision We Sack We Saliova

Technology Office

March 5, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

I am in support of the State of Illinois broadband stimulus gram application. I am the Technology Director for Downers Grove #58, the largest K-8 school in DuPage County, Illinois. We serve 5000 students and 330 teachers in 13 buildings. Please provide a paragraph expressing your support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We rely on the ICN for our middle mile transport. We have found that bandwidth demands are increasing very quickly and T-1 or T-3 lines do not adaquately provide the bandwidth we need.

Currently we are not able to adaquately back up our data in a remote site due to bandwidth restrictions and we must limit the streaming of video resources that augment the curriculum because of bandwidth. Going to other service providers is too costly

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, we will be able to implement a remote archiving system and enable teachers to stream content for the curriculum.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-719-2768 or by email at chodson@dg58.org.

Sincerely,

Connie Hodson EdD

Director of Technology

Connie Hodson

Downers Grove #58

1435 Prairie

Downers Grove, IL 60515



March 19, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the ICNs State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. My school district serves close to 5,000 students. While we have been vigilant keeping up with technology, some things get harder and harder to fund. The broadband stimulus grant would be of great benefit to our community were it to be rewarded to the ICN. Not only is the ICN our connection to the rest of the world, but it is also a required resource to support current best practices such as archiving information, communication with the state, and supporting the students and community while outside the walls of the district.

In this day and age our technology support dollars are in competition with teacher salaries. We often cast a critical eye to things we know we should be doing to support our students in the technology sector because we just cannot afford it.

Particularly impacted at this moment is our ability to provide a portal for home communication regarding student information and progress, and our access to back-up and security. A robust ICN would go a long way to bringing these necessities to our district.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847.824.6853 or by email at bowers@d62.org.

Sincerely,

IM Bowers

Seth Bowers

Director of Information & Instructional Technology Des Plaines School District 62

Community Consolidated School District 62

Dr. Jane L. Westerhold, Superintendent

777 East Algonquin Road

Des Pfaines, Illinois 60016-6281

T 847-824-1136 ≠ € 847-824-8612

www.d62.org



DEKALB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #428

Serving The Cortland, DeKalb, and Malta Communities

901 S. Fourth Street - DeKalb, Illinois 60115 P: 815.754.2350 F: 815.758.6933

Dr. James Briscoe Superintendent of Schools Phone 815.754 2330

Fax: 815.758,6933

Ms. Kari Cremascoli Assistant Superintendent Support Services Phone: 815.754.2310 Fax 815.754.2215 kari cremascolledist428.org Ms. Andrea Gorla
Assistant Superintendent
Business & Finance
Phone: 815.754.2329
andrea gorlamdist428.org

Dr. Lindsey A. Hall Assistant Superintendent Human Resources Phone: B15 754 2328 Fax B15.754 2345 Indsey hall@dist428 org Dr. Roger Scott
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction &
Assessment
Phone: 815-754,2296
rogenscott@dist#28.org

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The DeKalb School District 428 Technology staff fully supports the the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a K12 public school district with schools in the City of DeKalb, Town of Cortland, and Village of Malta. We have already run our own fiber between our schools and to Northern Illinois University (our local ICN access point). We have shown other schools the advantages to utilizing fiber for the backbone of their network, and I feel the ICN should be allowed to do so as well. The success of the DATA consortium (DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority) only shows the need for connectivity for all of the ICN's constituents.

We ran our own fiber starting in 2002 due to the costs that several vendors offered us. For the cost they wanted to charge for limited access (10mb) to one building less than a mile away (installation charges + \$5000 per month), we joked we could run the fiber ourselves. We did and it was simply the best decision we ever made. Immediately we were able to consolidate all of our servers into 1 data center. Allowing a very small technology team to manage all servers and workstations for 13 buildings centrally.

With improved bandwidth between ICN constituents, I fully expect to be able to save funds as we utilize other districts for off-site storage, disaster recovery, server consolidation, and virtualization.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at any of the numbers or email addresses listed below.

Sincerely,

Brian Tobin

DeKalb Community Unit School District 428

901 S 4th ST

DeKalb, IL 60115

brian.tobin@dist428.org

Work 815.754.2284

Cell 302.468.6246



Phone: 217.424.3088 Fax: 217.424.3477

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

Dear Sir,

3/4/2010

Decatur Public School District #61 located in Decatur, Illinois is a K-12 School District comprised of 28 buildings across our city. We have around 9,000 students and 1,500 employees (teachers, admin, staff, etc). Accessing Internet for educational test prep and other instructional resources is growing geometrically. It is imperative that schools be connected to reliable and stable infrastructure to access these resources in order to compete and succeed. The last mile/middle mile is crucial. We are anxious to see ICN's project come to fruition.

District 61's experience with ICN (especially Richard Mann & Ben Winter) has been exceptional. ICN has been professional, timely, proactive, and personable in their care, support, and service to us. I can't say enough good things about them.

Having a single source provided would help greatly. Today we must decide which <u>mile-in-the-loop-provider</u> we should contact to address outages or to report problems. By having one-stop-shopping so to speak, it is very to have ICN (a trusted friend) as our partner.

Currently Comcast connects our buildings and gives us the 'mile' of connectivity to ICN. Their service has been satisfactory, but it would be nice to have all-in-one.

We are also hopeful to benefit from ICN with both cost cutting and additional bandwidth for our growing dependence upon emerging technology.

Cont	acts:

Jim Andrews Network Manager 300 E. Eldorado Decatur, Il 62523	Max Burgstahler Director of MIS 300 E. Eldorado Decatur, IL 62523	Randy Dotson Director of Purchasing 101 W. Cerro Gordo Decatur, Il 62523
217-424-3088 wk	217-424-3087	217-424-3000

Please feel free to contact me at any time for clarity and/or questions, Sincerely - Mr. James (Jim) Andrews

"We are committed to educating all students for life-long success."
DECATUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #61

Equal opportunity employer



COLCATING

GENERALIONS

OI

WORLD CLASS

LEARNIRS

March 10" 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Duar Sit,

; am writing to express Crete Monee School District's support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Crete-Monee School District is a K-12 district located in the south suburbs of Chicago. We serve over **5,000** students in three towns (Crete, University Park, and Monee, Illinois. We feel this project will provide an enormous enhancement in student learning and parent communication.

Due to our ever increasing enrollment and continuous growth in the community, we feel the need for such bandwidth is outgrowing the existing infrastructure which has placed limitations in the areas of distance learning, content streaming, and modern curricular needs.

Our geographical area has seen rapid growth and is only going to increase in population in the years ahead. Now is an ideal time for such technological advancements. Due to the sprawling nature of this area, there are still some limitations in the sense that carriers and service providers have been unable to provide needed services to customers at reasonable prices. This directly impacts economically disadvantaged groups, the elderly, users in rural areas, and public entities.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, our organization will be able to close the gaps between parent and school communication and will streamline the educational experience for everyone in the community.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 708.367.8362 or by email at dyrekm@cm2010.org

Sincerely.

Mark Dycek

Director of Technology

Mark Dyrek Director of Incliniology

Crete-Monee 201-U Technology Department 250 W. Extrange St.

760 W. Exchange \$t. Crete, IL 60417

208 (62 2930 ph 208 (62 3937 b www.cm201u.org

Board of Education

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Consolidated School District 158



Administrative Cabinet

Dr. John D. Burkey, Superintendent Terry L. Awrey, Ed.S. Associate Superintendent Lauren Smith, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Mary M. Olson, Chief Academic Officer Mark Altmayer, Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer

650 Academic Drive, Algonquin, Illinois 60102 - Phone: (847) 659-6158 - www.district158.org - EOE

3/17/10

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a school district that has grown rapidly over the past ten years to over 9000 students. With this growth in population has come a greater number of students, teachers and support staff utilizing bandwidth to enrich the educational content of our district. We have had to limit requests to stream educational content, due to the inability to handle this over our current bandwidth access. With the increased capacities that the new ICN fiber network could provide, we would be able to allow more educational content access to teachers for classroom presentation. We could also allow access for teachers to stream nationally broadcasted events that would be relevant to the classroom as the events occur. We have seen an increase in requests for and curriculum driven by interactive technologies. Without increased bandwidth these initiatives cannot be supported.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847-659-6183 or by email at agreen@district158.org.

Sincerely,

Angela Green

Technology Resource Coordinator Consolidated School District 158

Malaskan'

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 218



Dwight D. Eisenhower * Harold L. Richards * Alan B. Shepard * 218 ALT ED * Summit

Board of Education

Administrative Center 10701 S. Kilpatrick Avenue Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 Phone: 708-424-2000 Fax: 708-424-6389

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Community High School District 218 is in total support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a public high school district that serves the following communities: Alsip, Blue Island, Calumet Park, Chicago Ridge, Crestwood, Garden Homes, Merrionette Park, Oak Lawn, Palos Heights, Robbins and Worth. We currently have three main campuses and an alternative building and serve a total of 5, 592 students. Middle mile transport would allow classrooms to stream video directly to the classroom, currently teachers have to download and copy video to a DVD because of the lack of bandwidth. Online attendance and grading applications within the schools is sluggish. These types of concerns define the need for more bandwidth. Middle mile transport has the potential to triple our bandwidth.

Education is becoming more and more dependent on bandwidth. Currently infrastructures are barely meeting the needs of teachers, students, parents and community; also the demand will undoubtedly increase in the near future. Current educational strategies often require an entire classroom to be using the internet to promote collaborative learning. We are now confined by the buildings current bandwidth which seems to be limited to three classrooms using the internet during any teaching period. However, as soon as four or five classrooms of students and P.C.'s try to access the internet the entire building enters into a bandwidth "traffic jam". This "traffic jam" effects student learning, attendance, general communication, paying of bills and parent access to student information.

Providing stable, reliable and economic bandwidth for a District of five buildings and 6,000 students covering 35 square miles is very difficult. The current cost to provide 'fiber' speed by private vendors is estimated to be \$7,950.00 per month after e-rate discounts. Two hundred megabit of bandwidth to the WAN is currently estimated at \$3,400.00 per month after e-rate discount. Forty-three percent of the District's students qualify for free and reduced lunches. These students and their parents rely on the District for internet access because the majority of them cannot afford home access.

The District has always relied on ICN to provide bandwidth at an economically affordable price. The District is currently looking at private vendors for increased bandwidth demands which will be considerably more expensive. These additional funds will need to come from current revenue streams which basically will require the District to 'rob Peter to pay Paul'. I there is any additional support or information District 218 can provide to the State of Illinois application for broad band stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Byrne, Superintendent

Community High School District 218

10701 South Kilpatrick Ave.

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Email - john.byrne@chsd218.org

Phone - 708-424-2000 ext. 2500

CHRISMAN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOLS

From the office of Fray Surnish Principal

Chrisman-Scouland Jr. High School 23231 IL Highway I Chrisman, IL 61924 Ph: (217) 269-3980 Fax: (217) 269-3941 Chrisman High School 23231 IL Highway I Chrisman, IL 61924 Ph: (217) 269-2823 Fax: (217) 269-2329

March 16, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds
Application

Dear Sir,

I definitely support the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a rural K-12 district in East Central Illinois – Chrisman. The region is agricultural based with no large local businesses in town. 133 out or our 374 students qualify for free and reduced lunches. All of our telecommunication infrastructure is old and slow at best! The e-rate system helps with our expenses but with the new budget constraints of the district we can use more help.

The school has a T-1 line that connects us to the state's Internet service through the Paris, IL hub. It is slow a lot of the time and is drained most of the day. Teachers could access and use more online media in the classroom if we had more of a capacity to support it. With the great possibility of on-line textbooks and curriculum being used to save districts' money, we will need the speed and capacity to be able to use those items.

Our local library and doctor's office share the same problems we have. They are strapped by the slow Internet available in our area. Driving items requested is often faster than sending them through e-mail or over the Internet.

The ICN proposal to connect communities in our area is hopefully a light at the end of the tunnel for us.

Our school district fully supports the ICN proposal. If I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at Chrisman High School 217-269-2823 or by e-mail kdixon@chrisman.k12.il.us

Sincerely,

Kathy Dixon

Tech Coordinator



Cairo School District No. One

"MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE!" 2403 Walnut Street

Cairo, Illinois 62914 Telephone: 1-618-734-4102

Fax: 1-618-734-4047

March 10, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I would like to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our school district is located in the southern most part of the state. Our school district is now served by the Illinois Century Network. If not for ICN, our district would have no broadband service. Our district is qualifies for 100% free and reduced lunch program. There is no broadband service in our area that could provide service to us. We now have five T1 lines providing internet services to our students.

The benefits our community would receive from middle mile transport on the network and/or providing last mile transport to our community would be great. Our community does not have access to broadband service to their homes. Many homes have no internet service and some are only able to receive dial up.

Greater bandwidth would provide our district with more a more stable and faster connection to the internet. This program would also provide services to the economically disadvantaged groups and the elderly users in our community.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me or the Cairo Unit School District 1 at 618-734-4102.

Sincerely,

Rose Mary Kloss, Technology Coordinator

Cairo Unit School District 1

Kare Mary Kloss

Cairo IL 62914

rkloss@csd1.alxndr.k12.il.us



CAHOKIA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #187 TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

1900 MOUSETTE LANE (618) 332-2191 Fax (618) 332-3738

CAHOKIA, IL 62206

District Network Operations Center DNOC (618) 332-2191 John Barr - Technology Department Lead (618-806-8920 Cell) jebarr@stclair.k12.il.us Julie Purcell - Technology Department Secretary (618-806-1775 Cell) purcelli@stclair.k12.il.us

March 12, 2010 **Assistant Secretary** National Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The State of Illinois, and particularly the whole state south of Chicago, has suffered forever trying to get affordable and available Broadband connectivity. At present we have only limited connectivity to the Internet and this area has some of the poorest and most obsolete "copper" wiring in all the 48 states. The State of Illinois needs this grant and the resulting changes to our infrastructure dramatically.

The Illinois Century Network offers Internet connectivity to all schools, government offices throughout the state. They offer this Internet access based on student population and available bandwidth. We currently receive 10.5 megabits/sec of connectivity (served over multiple T1 lines) to be shared among 5000 users and 1350 computers. Residences in Cahokia can get 5 or 10 Megs of connectivity for one PC. We desperately need more.

Our educational use of the Internet and delivery of digital resources is severely limited. Our teachers are unable to offer video streaming and resources that are available online for teaching. Also our students are hampered in getting the types of resources they need to prepare papers, hunt for colleges, and prepare applications.

We are currently looking into buying additional Broadband bandwidth from one of several vendors but the critical financial crunch we find ourselves in keeps us from doing so. AT&T, Charter Communications, Nortel Telecommunications, and others provide it in the area however it is not a price we can afford.

We serve a severely depressed socioeconomic area. We have more than 75% of our students on Free and Reduced Lunch Programs. Most of our parents cannot afford computers in the home. Most of our students can only use computers at school.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer more facilities to even allow parents to access the Internet at school on Kiosk type machines and or athletic events. A new fiber network will allow more readily available educational programs that we can offer our students.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 332-2191 or by email at jebarr@stclair.k12.il.us.

Sincerely,

John E. Barr

Technology Lead

Cahokia Unit School District #187

Cahokia, Il 62206

Bunker Hill Community Unit School District #8
Marg Rogers, Superintendent
504 East Warren

Bunker Hill, IL 62014

Ph: 618-585-3116

Fax: 618-585-3212

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

I am writing in support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a school district serving 700 students and 80 teachers and support staff. Through our connection with ICN, we also provide services for our local library and city hall which service 1500 townspeople. We are a small, rural area without many options at affordable, high speed internet. The ICN fiber project will be immensely beneficial to our school district and our community.

I cannot properly express what this project means for commerce in Illinois. Providing opportunities for business growth is a primary focus for all states. As a middle mile provider for the entire State, the ICN will be able to provide transport services to last mile providers and organizations previously not eligible to connect to the ICN. This will provide the opportunity for private sector service providers to expand broadband in underserved and into unserved areas of the state.

These are just a few of the advantages connected organizations will receive:

- Significantly greater bandwidth at lower costs
- · Higher baselines for primary constituents
- On-network traffic with few bandwidth restrictions
- Greater network redundancy and opportunities for shared DR
- Expansion of shared services opportunities
- Ability to expand on-line service, including: business and student management systems; interactive curriculum; streaming video and video conferencing, and greater access to Internet2
- Low cost commodity egress
- Telemedicine, digital imaging transport, rural health care expansion

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-585-4831 or by email at mmueller@bhschools.org.

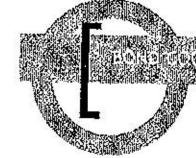
Sincerely,

Michelle Mueller

Technology Coordinator

Bunker Hill School District

700 West Orange Bunker Hill, IL 62014



1008 North Hena Street Greenville, Illinois 62246

Phone: 618-664-0170 Fax: 618-664-5000

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Punds Application

Dear Sir,

We are a rural county school district is Southern Illinois. We serve over 1900 students in five schools in three communities. The Internet access we provide our students vary as much as the communities they are located in. ICN helps our district manage our various providers, services and contractual pricing. Improving ICN's fiber network has the potential to improve bandwidth for our students, staff, teachers and administration.

Having greater bandwidth available would mean that we could provide greater opportunities for our students and teachers to utilize web based resources. We have had to limit some resources due to the lack of available bandwidth for some web based applications. We have in place a fiber intranet that can handle greater bandwidth if it were available. It is frustrating for students and teachers to not be able to utilize resources that students in urban areas take for granted. Lack of bandwidth impacts staff productivity and limits student learning.

Due to our geographical location, we struggle with limited services from different providers for Internet access. Our providers are limited in what they can offer to us due to their limited and aging infrastructure and the cost effectiveness of updating in a sparsely populated region. Our students and their families in Pocahontas and Soronto are limited to dial-up, DSL service or wireless. We plan to move to T1 service in these communities as it becomes available. Families are resistant to providing Internet access in their homes due to limited choices and high cost. When providers update services to our school, it improves the whole community.

In Greenville, our students and their families have a much wider choice for Internet access. Even with more choices, we've been waiting almost two years to move to metro Ethernet, due to it still needing to be built out to our area. We continue to add T1 lines to compensate. Families in Greenville are much more likely to have Internet access in the home because of their choices and more competitive pricing. It is our students and their families in the tural areas that struggle due to the limited infrastructure in our area.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, our organization, Bond County CUSD #2, will be able to utilize more bandwidth to provide services on our fiber intranet. As we have seen in our communities, our families benefit from better services in their homes when providers and telecommunication managers improve their infrastructure. Improving ICN fiber network will provide better service across many regions of our state. It will also allow organizations that utilize ICN to be more innovative in their approach to 21st century communication and collaboration. It will allow for cloud computing, better data warehousing and more efficient work patterns.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-664-3117 ext. 131 or by email at mfile@becu2.k12.il.us

Sincerely, Meg File

Technology/Curriculum/Director

Bond County Community Unit #2 School District



Blue Ridge Community Unit School District #18

name of stricting 15.0 kg 309.928.5478 O'strict Fax.

41) Node John Street Farmer City, 1, 61642 309-928-9141 District Office

15 March 2010

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

Re: CIRBN

Dear CIRBN:

Blue Ridge CUSD #18 is a Central Illinois school district supporting 850 students in an area spanning three countles. We currently access the Internet via a fiber optic connection into our Farmer City campus at a speed to 5 megabits per second. This connection is shared with our Mansfield campus and is used to capacity on a daily basis, effectively serving as a limiting factor in the degree to which Blue Ridge teachers can integrate technology into our curriculum.

While our Internet usage continues to increase each year, our available bandwidth decreases and our options to improve connectivity grow more and more cost prohibitive. We feel that the bandwidth available under CIRBN will greatly improve our capacity to deliver high-quality educational opportunities to our students and allow the district to plan for the introduction of new technologies and services.

We also believe that this opportunity can benefit other members of our community. Many of our students live in rural areas that are only served with dial-up connections or satellite broadband. It is our hope that the increased backbone development would spur commercial providers to make high-speed access available to our underserved population.

Blue Ridge CUSO 18 gives its complete support to The Central Illinois Regional Broadband (CIRBN) project.

Sincerely,

Jay Harnack, Superintendent

Blue Ridge CUSD 18

BELLEVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 201

2600 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 150 · BELLEVILLE, IL 62226-6687 PHONE: 618-222-8200 · FAX: 618-233-7586 · http://www.bths201.org

WEST HIGH SCHOOL

- Maroons Robert S. Dahm, Principal 4063 Frank Scott Pkwy W Belleville, IL 62223-6802

Phone: 618-222-7500 Fax: 618-235-2484



EAST HIGH SCHOOL

- Lancers David Kniepkamp, Principal 2555 West Boulevard Belleville, IL 62221-5525

Phone: 618-222-3700 Fax: 618-222-3799

Dr. Greg A. Moats, Superintendent

- Dr. George M. Kohut, Asst Superintendant of Personnel
 Dr. Jeff Dosler, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations
- Mr. Rick Cavaller, Director of Special Services
- Ms. Andrea Rudanovich, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

March 15, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

The Belleville Township High School District 201 fully supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a 9-12 public school district serving 5000 students from 10 public elementary school districts and several private and parochial schools in the communities of Belleville, Fairview Heights, Millstadt, and Swansea. Currently, our last mile connection is a leased fiber optic connection from our local Cable Company. We also have a leased fiber optic connection between our 2 high schools. Due to middle-mile bandwidth restrictions imposed upon us by Illinois Century Network, our last mile connection is faster than the bandwidth allotted to us by the Cable Company.

Improving the Illinois Century Network's bandwidth is imperative to the continued success of our school district as our bandwidth needs grow. We have been able to consolidate most of our data center needs, since the 1Gbps link was established between our 2 campuses. With improved bandwidth between ICN constituents. I fully expect to be able to save funds as we utilize other districts for off-site storage, disaster recovery, server consolidation, and virtualization.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Abe Loveless

Director of Technology

Belleville Township High School District 201

2600 W. Main St., Suite 150

Belleville, IL 62226

aloveless@bths201.org

Work: 618,222,8241

Cell:

Winnebago Community Unit School District 323



304 E. McNalr Road Winnebago, II. 61088

March 17, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Sthmulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

Winnebago School District #323 has 1,650 students with 250 employees, and is located in tural northwestern Illinois. Access to a robust connection to the Interact is vital to us. The ICN fiber project will greatly increase our access to needed bandwidth, as educational programming becomes more and more internet dependent.

Cost is also a grave concern. As a small district with limited resources, we rely heavily on the Illinois Century Network to provide reliable and capable access to the Internet. With the increasing need for bandwidth, this grant will provide a much-needed increase in the level of service to the entire Winnebago community that could not afford to do this on its own.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-135-2456 or by email at zumdahld@winnebugoschools.org

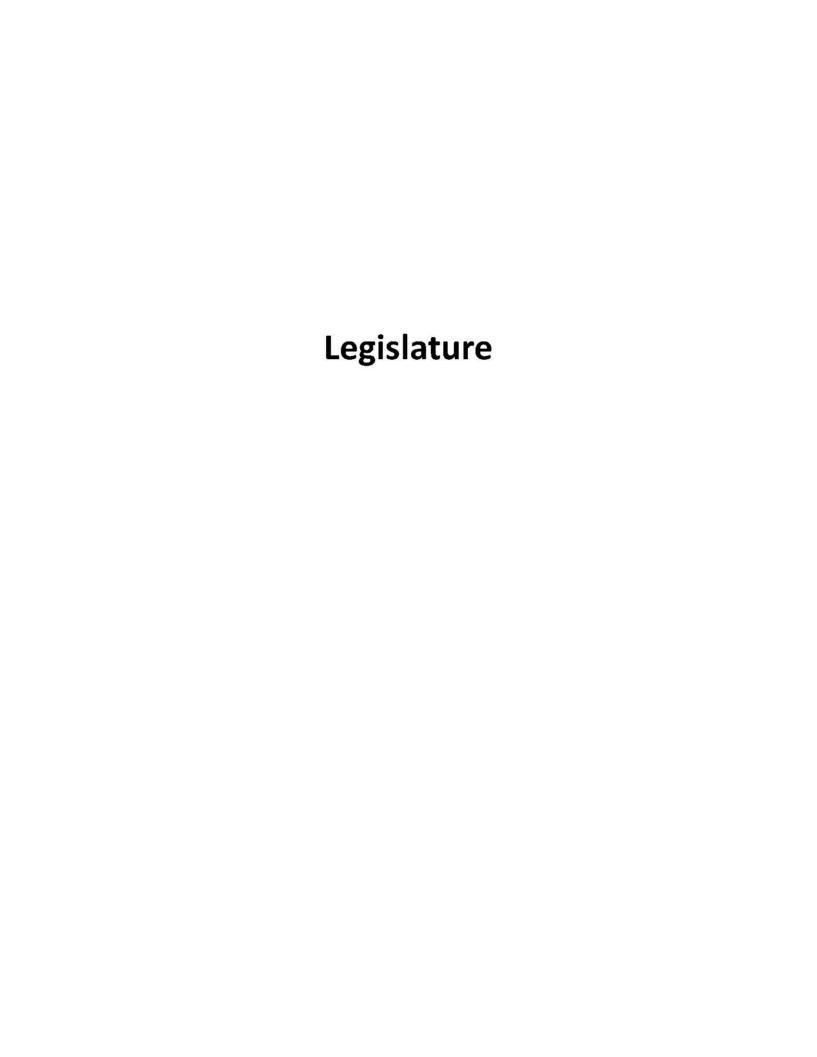
Sincerely,

David Zurgdahl, Business Manuger

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"An edinomizative market that implices and arriest each traincidual to make the greatest was of his or her patential."





RICHARD J. DURBIN

COMMODITIES ON APPROPRIATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON RULES APP ADMIRISTRATION

ASSISTANT LIACION BY LEADER

United States Senate

Washington, BC 20510-1304 March 3, 2010 900 HABI SENATS OF HIR TO HIS KIS WASHING HIS HID 26-19-1904 2001 094-09-12 TEY (2001 094-09-12

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Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
HCHB, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing in support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) which is being proposed by a consortium of various education, healthcare, public safety, government, not-for-profit, and commercial institutions within the greater McLean County area.

There are a number of these groups in suburban, rural, unserved and underserved markets that struggle with the high cost and low throughput of commercially available Internet connectivity. The vision of CIRBN is to provide sustainable lower-cost, middle-mile and last-mile network that offers high-speed interconnectivity between facilities within an organization, other organizations, the internet, the state network and others to support the needs of these institutions. Through CIRBN, these organizations will be able to connect their facilities at speeds of 1Gb/s to the various rural community networks in the Bloomington-Normal backbone network. Once community network segments have been created within the rural communities, CIRBN will seek to partner with commercial providers to drive down the cost of extending high-speed access to the rural, remote, unserved, and underserved residential populations.

Because CIRBN will carry no debt to create the infrastructure and will leverage connectivity to a regional optical network and the state network to buy commodity internet services in bulk, the cost of building high speed networks will be greatly decreased. Opportunities for partnerships among organizations will be greatly improved for initiatives like disaster recovery, business continuity planning, eCommerce, application sharing and video conferencing. Connectivity to CIBRN will allow businesses to reach customers in other states and countries.

As the sponsor of rural broadband legislation, I know that broadband is critical to community and economic development, as it encourages investment, creates jobs, improves productivity, fosters innovation, and increases consumer benefits. The efforts undertaken by the consortium behind. Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network are to be applicated and i urge you to give their proposal the most serious consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin

BILL FOSTER 14th District, Illinois

COMMITTEES:

FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE, AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON

March 17, 2010

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Wlashinaton. DC 20515-1314

1339 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1314 (202) 225-2976 TOLL FREE: (866) 777-6670

> DISTRICT OFFICES 27 NORTH RIVER STREET BATAVIA, IL 60510 (630) 406-1114 TOLL FREE: (866) 324-6128

119 WEST FIRST STREET Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-0680

137 SOUTH STATE STREET Sints 344 GENESEO, IL 61254 (309) 944-3558

Assistant Secretary National Telecommunications and Information Administration US Department of Commerce Washington, DC 20230

RE: Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Broadband Stimulus Fund Application

Dear Sir:

The State of Illinois' Department of Central Management is partnering with Illinois State University to form the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership. The partnership is proposing a project that will expand access to broadband technology to unserved and underserved communities within parts of 53 counties in the State of Illinois—four of which lie in the borders of my district.

The grant provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration will permit the partnership to connect community colleges, public universities, primary and secondary schools, libraries, healthcare, public safety and municipalities to broadband networks to technologies vital to the success of these organizations. The proposed network will provide Illinois communities with significantly higher speeds at a low operating cost and will directly connect our community colleges and public universities.

I urge you to give the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership's application every appropriate consideration, to let me know when a decision about the grant has been made, and to advise me of the status of the application.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my Constituent Services Advocate, Meghan Auker, at 630-406-1114. Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bill Foster

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE

CONDERVATION, CREDIT, ENDINGY, AND RESYARCH

GENERAL FROM COMMODITIES AND :



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

DEBBIE HALVORSON

March 22, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary of Commerce Communications and Information 1401 Constitution Ave. Washington, DC. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

I am writing on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois to express my support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Region's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Grant Program to coordinate the development of a broadband plan for underserved communities with access to high quality and affordable high speed communication services.

The phenomenal growth in distance learning, video-rich educational and public safety content, and health IT applications requires a robust, economical broadband infrastructure. The proposed fiber network will provide Illinois communities with significantly higher speeds at a low operating cost and will directly connect our community colleges and public universities.

If awarded, this grant will benefit all or portions of fifty-three (53) counties, hundreds of municipalities and its businesses and residents. The Illinois Department of Central Management is partnering with Illinois State University, a great example of multiple public institutions working together to provide real solutions to the real issue of access to high speed connectivity.

Thank you for your consideration of my support. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at 815.726.4998.

Sincerely,

Deblie Halvorson

Debbie Halvorson Member of Congress

Laura Breeden, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
 Tim Duckworth, Central Management Services, Director of Gov*t Affairs
 Al Bowman, Illinois State University, President

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

DIENEATT ASSISTANCE AND Missionus, Arrams.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

MURCOMMITTERE

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COSTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY, AND RESEARCH

GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

DEBBIE HALVORSON

March 23, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
HCHB, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Letter of Support on Behalf of Illinois State University Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Reference #: CFDA 11.557

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois to express my support for Illinois State University's application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Illinois State University is working in collaboration with Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) to create an infrastructure that delivers high speed internet connectivity in rural, underserved communities. I strongly believe that this infrastructure would have a profound regional economic impact in the areas it would serve.

Since much of my district is rural, I am aware of the genuine need for rural communities to become more competitive in order to seek and retain businesses, organizations, and people that promote economic growth. Most of these environments are either underserved or the broadband services are commercially unattainable due to excess costs. Broadband connectivity is often a differentiator between communities that are successful in these efforts and those that are not. The challenge is that broadband service in a rural community is either inadequate in coverage or capacity or priced beyond the means of organizations that reside in these environments. Attributes of the CIRBN infrastructure include:

- High-speed, low-cost and easy to maintain network connectivity through fiber optics delivered to each facility with capacity that is 500 to 1,000 times greater than most commercial broadband networks
- High-speed network connectivity between each of the rural communities and the network backbone in Bloomington-Normal
- High-speed Internet access that will be shared by all of the communities and organizations served by CIRBN
- High-speed access to the network for the State of Illinois called Illinois Century Network
- High-speed access to various research networks

1541 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 OFFICE: 202-225-3635

Fax: 202-225-3521

116 N. CHICAGO STREET, SUITE 401 JOLIET, IL 60432 OFFICE: 815-726-4998 FAX: 815-726-8024

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

FINANCE AND TAX

CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY

The real value of CIRBN is what it delivers to the communities and organizations that it would serve. These include:

- providing equipment and fiber to access high-speed connectivity for bandwidth demanding
 applications and services and supporting this access for schools, libraries, medical and health
 care providers, colleges and universities, community organizations, government entities and
 commercial organizations alike
- deliver high-speed connectivity to every community that is in scope far greater than what is available in nearly all but the largest of participating communities
- partnering with last-mile providers by leasing fiber strands or connectivity below commercial
 costs so that new forms of broadband access can be cost-effectively delivered to consumers
 residing in underserved areas in McLean, Livingston, DeWitt, and Piatt counties enhance the
 level of access to and use of broadband service by public safety agencies
- providing an infrastructure that stimulates the demand for broadband, economic growth, and
 job creation because it is highly scalable to support growth, upgradable, available to any
 organization that wants to seek it, and can be replicated to other communities

In addition, CIRBN is based upon an LLC using a not-for-profit business model that will be responsive to the communities that it serves with an emphasis on delivering high-speed connectivity with dues that reflect the costs of the organization. Since CIRBN will carry no debt at its outset and access to lower-cost Internet connectivity is readily available through partner networks so that connectivity costs for member organizations will be lower than what is commercially available. This will drive growth in membership that in turn will allow per-unit-costs to decline over time. Combined with revenue collected from third party service providers seeking fiber or connectivity to deliver their services, financial sustainability can be achieved. These revenues eventually become capital to support new initiatives and upgrades that continue to deliver enhanced services to these communities and others well into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for Illinois State University application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact my assistant, Christina Rogers at 309-808-1194 or by email at Christina.Rogers@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Debbie Halvorson

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ourie lalvoisor

DLH/CR

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE 200-9N STRATTON BUILDING SPRINGFIELD, N. 62706 (217) 782-1118 FAX (217) 558-5271



DISTRICT OFFICE 202 N. PROSPECT, SUITE 203 BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704 (309) 682-1100 FAX (309) 882-1150 www.ep-rkedundy.com

DANIEL P. BRADY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 88TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

March 1, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform you of my support for a grant to help fund the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN). This grant would assist McLean County by providing a sustainable, lower-cost, middle-mile and last-mile network. This network will provide better interconnectivity within organizations, internet function and networks for the state of Illinois.

CIRBN would be able to serve numerous organizations such as education; healthcare; public safety; government; not-for-profit; and commercial entities that are located in various suburban, rural, unserved, and underserved markets. These organizations will be able to connect to their facilities at speeds up to 1Gb/s, which will provide bandwidth needed to utilize next generation applications and services that are vital to Mclean County's ability to attract new business. This bandwidth would also allow schools to provide educational experiences currently not available to students due to current bandwidth limitations and lack of access to research networks.

The cost to create CIRBN will be approximately \$20 million. Federal and State funding would assist McLean County in cutting down the cost of building high-speed networks because the consortium will carry no debt to create the infrastructure. In addition, the project will help boost the local economy through the procurement of legal, design, consulting, engineering, construction, project management, installation and other laborintensive services. CIRBN will greatly benefit all citizens of McLean County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincercly,

Daniel P. Brady

State Representative

88th District

PHIL HARE 17th DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

428 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1317

> PHONE: (202) 225-5905 FAX: (202) 225-5396

http://hare.house.gov (Email through Website)

SENIOR WHIP



March 24, 2010

EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the constituents in my district, I would like to offer my strong support the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Region's application for a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant. This project, led by Central Management Services and Illinois State University, is focused on providing unserved and underserved communities with access to affordable and sustainable communication services required to meet a wide range of critical needs, including those related to education, economic development, health care, public safety, and quality of life.

The phenomenal growth in distance learning, video-rich educational and public safety content, and health IT applications requires a robust, economical broadband infrastructure. The proposed fiber network will provide Illinois communities with significantly higher speeds at a low operating cost and will directly connect our community colleges and public universities.

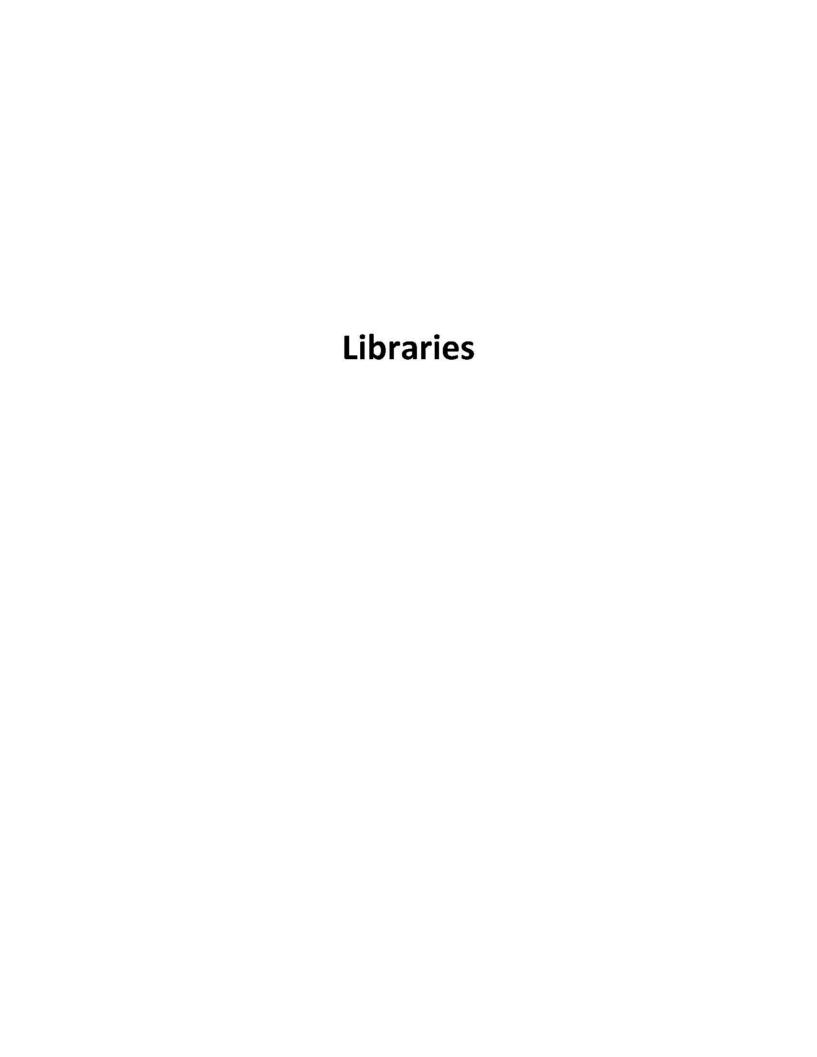
I believe the proposed fiber network will implement core broadband foundation resources to meet our near and long term needs. If I can be of further assistance Andy Rowe is my office contact in this matter.

Sincerely,

PHIL HARE

Member of Congress

PH:ar





Barclay Public Library 220 S. Main St. P.O. Box 349 Warrensburg, IL 62573 Voice 217-672-3621 Fax 217-672-8404 Web http://barclay.lib.il.us

March 8, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

Barclay Public Library serves a rural/suburban population of approximately 5,900 in central illinois. The library is located in a small town which offers only one high speed broadband Internet vendor. While affordable, it does not provide the bandwidth or connection speed necessary to efficiently operate the library's circulation software. In addition, the library provides the only free public Internet access within 10 miles, offering 7 public access computers. These computers are busy the entire time the library is open. High school and college students use them for research, homework and online tutoring services. Adults use them for job searching and resume writing, as well as genealogy research and personal email.

Funding the ICN fiber project would allow expansion of the middle-mile access closer to our community, finally supplying the bandwidth necessary to provide the public with faster and more affordable high-speed internet service. The benefit to our community would be huge, as the library would be able to operate its own upload-intensive software at the same time the public is trying to download their assignments, searches and tutoring assistance. As it is now, every computer in the building slows to a crawl many times each day.

The Internet choices in our community are dish, dial-up and wireless. The cable company has no plans to offer its Internet service to our town. Rural residents must rely on line-of-sight to connect wirelessly, and dish is very costly. Dial-up is totally inadequate, even for the residential customer. As a small, property-tax supported public library, we must try to find the balance between the best service available, and the service we can afford. Thus, wireless is our only



WARRENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

28 W 751 Stafford Place - Warrenville, IL 60555 - 630/393-1171 - Fax 630/393-1688

March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my full support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Warrenville Public Library District serves 14,000 residents in suburban Chicago. Our patrons depend upon the availability of Internet access to improve their lives through education and connections to people, ideas and communities throughout the world. Without affordable connections, our library will not be able to keep up with the demand for such access.

The availability of greater bandwidth is critical to our library as we are increasingly dependent on online resources. We are reluctant to expand computer resources for our patrons because of bandwidth limits. We would like to pursue offsite software solutions for our integrated library system, but are reluctant to do so for fear that access would be slow and cumbersome.

With the higher capacities that a new ICN fiber network would be able to offer, we could add capacity to our already stressed network. Our constituents would be able to enjoy improved accessibility to online courses and resources. We could save staff time and financial resources by pursuing software solutions that remove the need for the library to purchase and maintain expensive hardware. The savings realized could be directed toward programs and services that the library would otherwise not be able to afford.

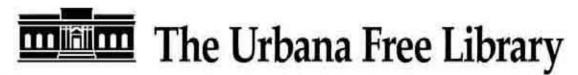
If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630/393–1171 or by email at director@warrenville.com

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Whitmer

andra L. Whitmer)

Director



210 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-5326 • 217/367-4057 • FAX: 217/367-4061 • urbanafreelibrary.org

March 9, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Application

I am writing to express strong support for the Illinois Century Network broadband grant application. The Urbana Free Library is the public library of the City of Urbana, serving a population of 40,550 in east central Illinois. The library is an extremely busy, community space with nearly 500,000 visits per year and over 100,000 public computer sessions per year. Since our computer users typically have no computers or no Internet at home, the service we provide is essential to equalizing technology resources and skills for vulnerable populations.

Since its inception in the late 1990s, Illinois Century Network has operated a state-wide network, providing internet connectivity for schools, libraries, and state agencies. But ICN functions as more than just an ISP. ICN staff facilitate and coordinate institutional connections to this network, but they also anticipate and plan for the needs of this very large number of key agencies and the populations that we in turn serve.

ICN provides a certain allowance of free bandwidth to schools and libraries. At one time the free bandwidth allowance was 1.5 Mb, but ICN increased its capacity and altered its service to provide the current 8.0 Mb free. Given this past history, I believe that any increased capacity at ICN will be used to increase bandwidth for anchor institutions either free or at low cost.

Our library relies upon ICN for this free internet service. Budgets being what they are for public institutions, the ICN free ceiling becomes our ceiling. When ICN first increased our potential capacity to the 8.0 Mb, we were not able to take advantage of the increased bandwidth because we were constrained by a T-1 line and unable to afford the prices quoted by commercial fiber carriers. With the recent two years, our City has created a fiber loop and connected us through to ICN. The change to fiber made a world of difference in the speed at our public computers and increased staff productivity as well. Granting ICN the funding to coordinate fiber options for anchor institutions will benefit the entire State.

ICN round 2 Broadband Application The Urbana Free Library letter of support Page 2

Looking forward, it is absolutely certain than public demand for bandwidth will increase. Our library is partnering with other local agencies to seek funding to increase the number of public computers and the technology training available at our site and elsewhere in our area. This same drive to expand resources is undoubtedly going on throughout the State as schools and libraries try to bridge the digital divide for their communities. While we serve many users who have almost no technology skills, we also serve people who are eager to adopt new technology. These users come to the library for help with new devices or to take advantage of our high speed bandwidth. "If you build it, they will come." It is essential to increase bandwidth capacity now to stay ahead of the curve.

Illinois Century Network is a proven supplier, an outstanding manager, and a visionary advocate of bandwidth for anchor institutions throughout the State of Illinois. You can be certain that any increased capacity developed under its auspices will be directed economically and with maximum benefit to the receiving agencies and the end users.

If I can be of any further assistance, I can be reached by email at dlissak@tufl.info or by phone at 217-367-4058.

Sincerely,

Debra Lissak

Executive Director

Debra J Lissak

TREMONT DISTRICT LIBRARY

215 S. Sampson Street P.O. Box 123 Tremont, IL 61568 309-925-5432 FAX 309-925-9953

Letter of support for ICN

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

The Tremont District Library has been using the Illinois Century Network T-1 lines for almost 10 years. Tremont is a small rural community (pop. 4705 for the Library District) located in central IL near Peoria, Bloomington-Normal and Pekin. Some parm of our library district have access to the Internet, but only on antiquated phone lines close to 40 years old. Being on the Internet in these areas is like watching a turtle run a race. Other options are available, but they are very expensive and sometimes not very reliable. Cable is not always available either.

The Tremont Library is the one place in town people can go to access the Internet at a high speed. The library also offers wireless access. Our most frequent users are people with no computer at home such as students doing online classes; older people and people with slow internet access. The computers are used for online classes, research, accessing information for personal use that cannot be viewed at home due to slow internet; applying for online jobs; contacting relatives and friends; looking at photos of grandchildren (cannot be viewed from home due to slow speed); and homework online for the local school system.

The Tremont District Library depends on ICN for stable access to the LLSAP—Resource Sharing Alliance Database duily. Without this stability it is extremely difficult to check out items, look for items online or add items to the database.

We can only imagine what will happen with the increased network capacity, bandwidth, service availability increase the network's capacity 500% if ICN is awarded funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funding the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The possibilities are endless! Online classes could be done live!

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 309-925-5432 or by email at trdi@dpc.net.

theirly

Sincerely,

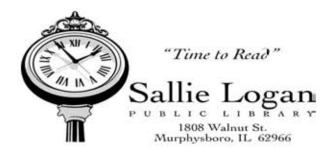
Judith A. Scheizer Library Director

Tremont District Library

215 S. Sampson St.

P.O. Box 123

Tremont, IL 61568



March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Please accept this letter of support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Sallie Logan Public Library is a rural library in deep southern Illinois that serves a population of just under 9,000. Broadband access is very limited in our area and the library depends on the ICN for connectivity. The library is the only wireless hotspot in Murphysboro.

The library has had a 30% increase in the number of patrons accessing the library's computer in the last fiscal year. As the economy experiences a down turn libraries have in increase in use. The State Illinois' broadband grant application would be of great benefit to my library. Added bandwidth at lower costs would be of great benefit to my library and my patrons.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me by email at donella@shawls.lib.il.us

Sincerely,

Donella L. Odum

Donella L. Odum Library Director



Rolling Prairie Library System

345 West Eldorado Street Decatur, IL 62522-2114

March 10, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds
Application

Dear Sir,

Rolling Prairie Library System is in full support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Rolling Prairie is a consortium of school, public, special, and academic libraries located in central Illinois. Our headquarters is based in Decatur. We have 122 members serving 264 individual libraries. One of our services is a joint catalog and circulation system that allows 152 member libraries to share access to a collection of nearly 889,000 titles and close to 3 million individual items. With the advent of the internet, more libraries have been able to join and access this collection. However, the stability of some of those connections is problematic for many of the members. In addition, the cost of adequate bandwidth makes the possibility of joining this automation group impossible.

Many of our rural libraries serve patrons who have NO access to broadband and whose own Internet connections are problematic at best. As our libraries increasingly become the Internet access point for these patrons, many of who are seeking jobs and upgrading their employment skills, the limits of the middle mile bandwidth are seriously strained.

Additionally, approximately 70% of our members provide services in rural communities. In these communities, the school and public libraries are the hub of community activity. In these economic times more people are using the library as their personal information portal and an access point for job searches and applications. The bandwidth needs of our member libraries is not available to provide for these community needs, plus participate in the shared automation program. A new ICN fiber network will be an advantage to these rural libraries and schools.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217 429-2586 or by email at bevo@rpls.ws

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Obert

Beverly J. Obert

Executive Director



March 12, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Mr. Strickling:

On behalf of the Rockford Public Library, I would like to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Rockford Public Library is a municipal library serving the City of Rockford with a city limit population of 150,115 and an MSA population of well over 300,000. The benefit of having a fiber connection through ICN cannot be overstated.

The library's ability to provide service to the community and to operate in today's world depends almost entirely on its ability to provide digital services and access to high-speed Internet connections. In short, the library, as one might expect, is an intense bandwidth consumer given its charge to provide information in all forms to its users. ICN and the State of Illinois' support of better connectivity for our library is vital to our ability to serve the public.

The Rockford Public Library has found it financially impractical to obtain high-speed connectivity due to the incredibly high prices for such service in the Rockford MSA. As a result, the library has been forced to limp along with "less than good" connectivity because of the lack of reasonable broadband opportunities and options. As a result, seniors, children, at-risk young adults, home school families, the poor, and many others have suffered with barriers to digital access for far too long.

The new ICN fiber network would allow the library to provide new levels of training, programming, and educational opportunities for people in the Rockford MSA. The library has contemplated such things as digital broadcasting, music production, art, publishing, and game

development for years, but due to bandwidth limitations, such plans have been shelved. Again, the library simply must have better connectivity in order to provide the services needed for a new digital generation.

If I may be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (815) 965-7606 or by e-mail at fnovak@rockfordpubliclibrary.org.

Sincerely,

Frank Novak

Executive Director





816 E. Glen Avenue Peoria Heights, IL 51616 309, 682, 557

March 19, 2010

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir.

The Peoria Heights Public Library supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The library is funded with tax dollars paid by the residents of Peoria Heights, Illinois. Although the population of Peoria Heights is 6,650, we serve a wider area of people because this village is surrounded on three sides by Peoria and the fourth side by the Illinois River. As a member of the Alliance Library System, we offer reciprocal horrowing privileges to library cardholders from any other public library in the area. Over 50% of our circulation comes from people outside of Peoria Heights.

Participation in the Illinois Century Network is crucial to our library. The economic level of this community is low, with over 50% of the students in the school district qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The usage of the public access computers has tripled in the last few years as more people have become dependent on computers to search for jobs or communicate with family or friends. Unfortunately, however, they cannot afford the equipment and the monthly service provider fees. Because we are a village library with a limited tax base, we are challenged to be able to serve them. The ICN provides as the opportunity to have faster speed at a reasonable charge. With the growing usage of the computers, though, that T-1 line is being taxed.

The funding which the ICN is seeking through State of Illinois' Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant application will enable the Peoria Heights Public Library to have greater bandwidth at lower costs than if we were to go through another provider. As the patron requests for expanded services offered by technological advances grow, the Library Board and staff want to meet their needs. The assistance of the ICN and its capabilities is crucial to making this possible.



816 E. Glen Avenue Peoria Heights,IL \$1616 309.682.5578

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application. Please contact me at [309] 682-5578 or e-mail me at mwestfall@peoriaheightslibrary.com if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

March Stestfall

Marsha Westfall, Director

March 9, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

This letter is intended to convey my strong support for the efforts of the Illinois Century Network (ICN) to obtain broadband stimulus grant funding. Having been director of the Oak Lawn Public Library since 1992, I am well aware that the ICN has already provided invaluable service to the 55,000 residents of Oak Lawn and the many thousands of persons who use our library from dozens of communities surrounding south suburban Chicago. The speed and efficiency of ICN in delivering middle mile and last mile service to our communities can only be enhanced through stimulus funding support.

Our Library hopes to move ahead in this second decade of the 21st Century to offer our patrons the full range of services available with Internet 2 technology. Expanded bandwidth at an affordable cost is essential to libraries serving budget strapped low and middle income communities such as ours. Many of the senior citizens, struggling businesses and unemployed persons in our communities cannot afford high speed internet service and therefore need to look to the public library as a source for an accessible on-ramp to the information super highway.

The ICN has provided excellent service in the past but needs additional funding in order to continue making progress in delivering high level service at reasonable cost to communities in need.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the efforts of the State of Illinois to secure stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at icasey@olpl.org or (708) 422-4990.

Sincerely,

James B. Casey, Director

JC/m



03-04-10

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Kind greetings. My name is Peter W. Caton and I am the Director of IT at the North Suburban Library District in Northern Illinois. I am writing you in regards to the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The North Suburban Library would like to show our support for the Illinois Century's Network (ICN) plans to increase bandwidth across Illinois through the broadband stimulus grant application.

The North Suburban Library, itself, serves residents of Loves Park, Machesney Park, Roscoe and surrounding areas. The total population serves is about 70,000. We have about 25,000 active card holders. The Illinois Century Network's fiber project would be of great benefit to us a large percentage of our patron population relies on us heavily for Internet services. Providing fast Internet to our patrons is vital in helping our patrons remain up-to-date on the latest technologies available through the Internet. From homework, to job searching, to recreational browsing, our patrons rely on us for Internet services for all their needs.

As demand for Internet services increases and bandwidth offerings remain stagnant, it has become challenge for us to successfully meet the demand for extra bandwidth. The library is therefore always looking for faster alternatives that would also be cost effective. ICN's plans to offer faster Internet services would help us not only meet today's demand, but tomorrow's demand as well.

Overall, ICN provides excellent service and support. The only issue we ever encounter with ICN's service actually does not involve ICN itself, rather, the respective support with the telecommunication providers. Presently, ICN requires constituents/members to lease Internet lines from various telecommunications companies. Thus, whenever there is a problem with a line, ICN relies solely on the support teams from the respective telecommunications providers to solve the problem. Unfortunately, there are times when the telecommunication support teams fail to address issues in a timely fashion. By funding ICN's fiber initiative, ICN will be able to manage the lines themselves and in turn, ICN can provide the highest level support in all areas of service.



Lastly, the North Suburban Library not only provides patron Internet access, but it also hosts a shared circulation system for eight libraries across Northern Illinois. The extra bandwidth would help us better manage access to this shared circulation system. This is key as without access to our shared circulation system, which includes our online catalog, staff at these libraries would not have the ability to assist their patrons to the fullest extent. And in turn, all of our patrons would not be able to remotely access the resources they rely on daily.

In closing, ICN's fiber initiative is a bold step forward in ensuring all people in Illinois have fast, reliable Internet available in schools, libraries and other educational facilities. This step is important in guaranteeing that Illinois remain on course to being a technological leader, not just across the state, but also, across the country.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-633-4247 ext. 22 or by email at peterc@northsld.org

Sincerely,

Peter W. Caton

Director of Information Technology North Suburban Library District 6340 North Second Street

Loves Park, Illinois 61111

Phone: (815) 633-4247 ext. 22 (Office)

Phone: (815) 919-3258 (Mobile)

Fax: (815) 636-5042

E-mail: peterc@northsld.org



New Lenox Public Library District • 120 Veterans Parkway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • 815-485-2605 • Fax 815-485-2548 • www.newlenoxlibrary.org

March 15, 2010

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. As a library district, we serve 35,000 people in the far southwest suburbs of Chicago. ICN's plans to expand their fiber optic network will likely mean lower costs for us, and ultimately, our taxpayers. The "last mile" expansion would be very helpful to us and our patrons.

More and more patrons are using the thirty-one public access computers at our library, and as usage increases, so will the demand for more bandwidth. Patrons use our computers for streaming audio and video, and this could cause capacity problems in the future.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, we will be able to expand our computer-based services in the future and maintain what we currently offer. A time will come when we need to purchase additional bandwidth, whether it's because we're adding more computers or because more patrons are taking full advantage of what we have now. If we are unable to get that additional capacity because of scarcity or cost, we might have to consider placing some limitations on the kind of activities for which our computers may be used. ICN's proposed expansion should ensure that we will continue to have access to bandwidth at a reasonable price.

Our organization supports the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding.

Yours truly,

JoAnn Potenziani Library Director