

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

ASSISTANT MAJORITY
LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
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TTY (202) 224-8180

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525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 492-4062

PAUL SIMON FEDERAL BUILDING
250 W. CHERRY STREET
SUITE 115-D
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
(618) 351-1122

durbin.senate.gov

March 22, 2010

Herb Kuryliw
Technology and Network Architect
Information Technology Services
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear Mr. Kuryliw:

I am writing in support of the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership Northwest Region (IBOP-NW) and their application for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I support this initiative that combines the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative, Blackhawk Hills RC&D and the City of Rockford under the direction of Northern Illinois University.

The IBOP-NW is an innovative partnership that involves over nine counties to build a 700 mile high speed fiber optic network that will connect over 500 anchor institutions that includes community colleges, libraries, cities and villages, emergency service, hospitals, schools and more. The unique approach of a public/private partnership within IBOP-NW will allow the local internet service providers and businesses the opportunity to have broadband that can drive new applications and innovations for over 16,000 businesses. The local internet service providers will have the opportunity to build and expand high speed, reliable broadband links to over 280,000 households where many of them are in rural areas that are topographically challenged.

Seven of the nine counties fall under the Economic Development Administrations (EDA) definition of distressed by having an average unemployment rate 1% higher than the national average over a twenty-four month period. It is anticipated that IBOP-NW will bring over 250 jobs to the region.

I am pleased to see that the IBOP-NW is duplicating and expanding the efforts of the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) project that was created by NIU and funded recently with a \$12M NTIA grant in the first round BTOP.

As a 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 effort undertaken by Northern Illinois University and the IBOP-NW members is to be applauded and I urge the NTIA to give your application the most serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

DONALD A. MANZULLO
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SENIOR REPUBLICAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1316

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
INSURANCE, AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

HOUSE MANUFACTURING CAUCUS
FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIRMAN

August 28, 2009

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Broadband Program

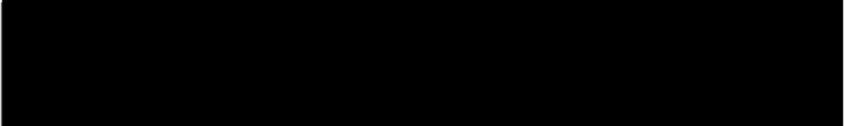
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development district in Illinois for funding under the broadband grant programs administered by the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service.

This proposal cost is approximately \$72 million and will develop and implement broadband infrastructure to a six county area of northwestern Illinois. In partnership with Northern Illinois University, this broadband initiative will bring a fiber network to over 142 participating organizations such as schools, hospitals, businesses, non-profit agencies and residents in the region. Federal funding is greatly needed to help provide this infrastructure to an unserved area of our state that is experiencing some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.

Once again, I support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D application for funding. I respectfully request your full and fair consideration of their proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress
16th District of Illinois



PARTNER

Aero Group, Inc.
120 E. Clark Street
Freeport, IL 61032
815-233-3387 phone
www.aeroinc.net

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between Aero Group (Aero) and Blackhawk Hills RC&D and Northern Illinois University ("Partners"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

NIU and Blackhawk Hills RC&D are unaffiliated state government agencies and are not associated with Aero.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Northern Illinois University as lead partner and Blackhawk Hills RC&D, as sub-partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline Aero as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Aero has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

Aero, as non lead partner, will support the Partner's application. Aero is a for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Aero, NIU and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 17, 2010


Tom Rutter
President
Aero Group, Inc.

Dr. William Tonne
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D

John Lewis
VP, NIU Outreach
Northern Illinois University

PARTNER

Attachment 1**Proposed Fiber Optic Path**

The following fiber optic link is part of our agreement:

1. Aero will commit to two or four strands of fiber in increments of 50 miles with a minimum purchase of an IRU for 100 miles at a cost of \$200.00 or \$400.00 respectively per mile. In addition, Aero understands that Aero would be responsible for the proportional maintenance on that fiber at the agreed upon rate which will fall between 0.5 cents to 1.0 cents per foot per year. At this point, we commit to \$20,000.00 for 2 strands at 100 miles, but will likely exceed that once the actual plans are developed. The primary locations for our fiber purchase will include all or parts of Stephenson, Ogle, Carroll, and JoDavies Counties.
2. We are further interested in purchasing no less than 100 MB bandwidth utilizing the transport fiber that is being put in place as part of this grant application. We understand that the transport costs will vary depending on the termination location we select, but will not be less than \$600.00/month to the NITT connection in Rockford; however, we may select to go to any number of connection points on the fiber project and will negotiate in good faith the monthly transport fee. Aero will have an IRU for two fibers between their Freeport facility and the NITT point of presence in Rockford.
3. We further will commit up to 100 hours per year during the 3 year implementation to provide pole-attachment engineering assistance within LATA 360 as our expertise as CLEC status. This would be an in-kind contribution to this project of \$30,000.

Aero has the understanding that our existing fiber system that we have built within the City of Freeport will not be affected or over-built. We have been very proactive in our efforts to deliver quality fiber access to the City and County offices, and have invested significant time and money toward solidifying those relationships and connections.

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage is 100 miles with an cost off \$20,000. This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the Partner's construction company.


Tom Rutter
President
Aero Group, Inc.

Dr. William Tonne
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D

John Lewis
VP, NIU Outreach
Northern Illinois University



RESOLUTION #: 4

BLACKHAWK HILLS RC&D BROADBAND FUNDING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the County of Whiteside supports the mission of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council to “assist the people of Northwest Illinois with the development of rural economies by improving and conserving all resources”; and

WHEREAS, the Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Funding Initiative proposes a variety of projects and activities identified and prioritized by the Broadband Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the County has participated in the collection of data which assess existing broadband conditions, formulates a development strategy and recommends the implementation of said initiative,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Whiteside County Board hereby adopts this resolution in support of the development strategies and projects outlined in the 2009 Broadband Funding Initiative and strongly recommends the implementation of said projects.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF JULY, 2009 A.D.

[Redacted Signature]

Tony Arduini, Chair
Whiteside County Board

ATTEST:

[Redacted Signature]

Dana Nelson, Clerk



JUL 20 2009



Carroll County Board

301 N. Main St., P.O. Box 152
Phone 815-244-0221

Mt. Carroll, Illinois 61053

July 16, 2009

Dr. William Tonne, President,
Blackhawk Hills Resource
Conservation and Development

Re: Grant Application for Broadband Development

Dear Dr. Tonne:

The Carroll County Board would like to show its support for your efforts to secure funding for Broadband improvements to our region under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is unquestionable that Carroll County, and our six county area, will benefit from broadband services and infrastructure improvements that can be provided from this grant.

Please accept this letter of support and our appreciation for your efforts to assist our County by coordinating the application process for grant funding that will bring the much needed improvements and opportunities in Rural Illinois.

Best Regards,



Rod Fritz
County Board Chair
Carroll County, Illinois

Sauk Valley Community College



173 IL Route 2
Dixon, IL 61021

August 6, 2009

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne,

Sauk Valley Community College supports the initiative to upgrade services through the connection of community colleges, K-12 schools, local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois using dark fiber. Sauk Valley Community College is located in an area where high speed internet connectivity is very expensive. Sauk is currently paying \$4,750 per month for last mile charges to connect to the Illinois Century Network. The acquisition and implementation of a dark fiber project to connect Sauk, local governments, school districts as well as other governmental agencies to a regional network that could share ongoing costs would allow Sauk to repurpose a portion of those dollars to buy additional bandwidth to support our growing appetite for internet related media and resources. Sauk could also purchase additional online material for our students to use both on and off campus. Some of the money could be used to develop and start new programs that would assist residents to acquire skills to become employed, upgrade job skills or retrain for another profession.

Sauk supports this project and Sauk's connection to the network using dark fiber. Sauk will be willing to serve as an access point or point of presence site for others should that be appropriate.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dr. Donald M. Pearl.

Dr. Donald M. Pearl
Academic Vice President
Sauk Valley Community College

815/288-5511 - FAX 815/288-5958



Jo-Carroll Energy

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



P.O. Box 390
793 U.S. Route 20 W.
Elizabeth, IL 61028
1-800-858-5522
Fax: 815-858-3731
www.jocarroll.com

July 30, 2009

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne,

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, a community college, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation and major hospitals in the area. Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to the Task Force Member communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to the citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D upgrades its infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,


Russ Simpson

Senior V.P. of Economic Development and Member Services
Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP)

Riverport Railroad

3177 McIntyre Rd.
Savanna Depot International Business Center
Savanna, IL 61074

Ph. 815-273-3200

Fx. 815-273-3614

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

AUG 04 2009

July 31, 2009

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne,

We applaud and support the efforts of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, public sector entities and private industry.

Our efforts to develop Savanna Depot Park (the largest tract of contiguous, industrial zoned property in the Northwest quadrant of Illinois) are critically dependent on improved wireless access to this 'isolated' part of the State so that the many small business, both in and adjacent to Depot Park, who form the backbone of economic growth in the region can function on a level playing field with global competitors. We are doing our part to provide 'world class' intermodal transportation services to the region, but it will go for naught without world class communications.

Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach. We are delighted to be part of this public/private partnership.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to this community, individual citizens and businesses like ours. This work will serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D and its' members upgrade their communications infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois and, where possible, to leverage and integrate our own private resources and communications infrastructure into this important project for the betterment of the wider community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
John C. Koster

President & CEO

Riverport Railroad

Illinois International Trade Centers, LLC

3177 McIntyre Road
Savanna Depot Park
Savanna, IL 61074

Ph. 815-273-2311

Fx. 815-273-3614

E-Mail:

tradestrat@hvc.rr.com

July 31, 2009

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne,

We applaud and support the efforts of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, public sector entities and private industry.

Our efforts to develop Savanna Depot Park (the largest tract of contiguous, industrial zoned property in the Northwest quadrant of Illinois) are critically dependent on improved wireless access to this 'isolated' part of the State so that the many small business, both in and adjacent to Depot Park, who form the backbone of economic growth in the region can function on a level playing field with global competitors. We are doing our part to provide 'world class' intermodal transportation and related services to the region, but it will go for naught without world class communications.

Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach. We are delighted to be part of this public/private partnership.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to this community, individual citizens and businesses like ours. This work will serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D and its' members upgrade their communications infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois and, where possible, to leverage and integrate our own private resources and communications infrastructure into this important project for the betterment of the wider community.

Sincerely,



William A. Hooton

President & CEO

Illinois International Trade Centers, LLC



July 30, 2009

Shank's Veterinary Equipment, Inc.
505 E. Old Mill Street
Milledgeville, IL 61051 U.S.A.
(815) 225-7700
FAX: (815) 225-5130
info @ shanksvet.com
www.shanksvet.com

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne:

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, a community college, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation and major hospitals in the area. Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to the Task Force Member communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to the citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D upgrades its infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely yours,

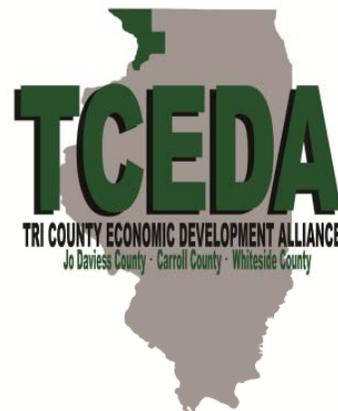
SHANK'S VETERINARY EQUIPMENT, INC.


Mark R. Dettman, President

jsd

March 22, 2010

William J. Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071



Randy Prasse
Executive Director
rprasse@tcedaonline.com

Dear Dr. Tonne:

Broadband is one of five critical areas of focus of the Tri County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA), along with law enforcement, housing, education, and infrastructure. Toward that end, we offer our whole-hearted support of any effort made to address these issues.

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, community colleges, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation, hospitals and clinics in the area.

TCEDA MISSION:

**To Significantly
Enhance Economic
Development
Progress in
Northwest Illinois
and Beyond, as
Measured
Ultimately by
Job Creation.**

Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through a collaborative approach. The Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership Northwest (IBOP-NW), an 8-county partnership including Blackhawk Hills RC&D, is now making a \$67M grant application with more than \$9M in non-federal matching funds, to the federal Stimulus Plan. In addition, IBOP-NM has \$14M in State match.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will meet the broadband demand and provide ongoing and long-term benefits to area schools, communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus, expanding infrastructure and creating local jobs.

By my signature below, TCEDA confirms our commitment to fully support the IBOP-NW and Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Randy Prasse
Executive Director

Tri County Economic Development Alliance

MAIN OFFICE
9317 IL Route 84
Savanna, Illinois 61074

NORTH OFFICE
300 N. West Street
Elizabeth, Illinois 61028

Office: (815) 273-1153
Fax: (866) 448-1156

PARTNER

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between the City of Rock Falls (Rock Falls) and Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Partner"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk Hills RC&D is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with Rock Falls.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Blackhawk Hills RC&D, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline Rock Falls as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Rock Falls has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

Rock Falls, as non lead partner, will support Blackhawk Hills RC&D application. Rock Falls is a not-for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Both Rock Falls and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 4, 2010



William J. Torrie, D.D.S.
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D

PARTNER

Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic link is part of our agreement:

- 1.) Rock Falls would like to upgrade its current infrastructure which runs to all of the anchor institutions as well as to our business to a PON network. It is estimated that this cost should not exceed \$400,000. NIU will place this equipment in the grant.
- 2.) Rock Falls will provide labor to install approximately 6 miles of fiber, either through our existing ducts or on our poles. The estimated cost for this is \$360,000.
- 3.) Rock Falls will install approximately 1 mile of fiber in the existing conduit across the Rock River. The estimated cost would be \$125,000.
- 4.) Rock Falls will allow fiber to be installed on its poles at no costs. The estimate for this service would not exceed \$40,000.

In-kind contribution of material by the City of Rock Falls

The City of Rock Falls will donate one two inch duct across the Rock River.

In-kind contribution of labor by the City of Rock Falls

Rock falls will provide all permits and labor to install the cable along the following path:

1. Install a four cable segmented PE based innerduct through the duct across the Rock River
2. Install two 144 fiber count cables through the duct across the Rock River.
3. Install one 144 fiber count cable from the river crossing along 2nd Street to C Avenue.
4. Install one 144 fiber count cable from 2nd Street along C Avenue to 3rd Street.
5. Install one 144 fiber count cable from C Avenue to A Avenue along 3rd Street.
6. Follow A Avenue from 3rd Street to 14th Street with the cable.
7. Jog one block over along 14th Street to 1st Avenue.
8. Follow 1st Avenue towards I-88 to the south side of the canal. Another vendor shall continue the run after the canal.
9. At the junction of 1st Avenue and Route 30 install a handhole as a junction point for a 144 fiber count cable running along Route 30.
10. From the junction at 1st Avenue, following Route 30 to the junction with I-88. Another vendor shall continue the run from the I-88 junction.
11. Install a 96 fiber cable from existing fiber cable along Route 30 to Riverdale School near the junction of Riverdale and Route 3.

BlackHawk Hills (NIU)

The University will provide the materials necessary to install the cable along the desired path.

PARTNER

Value

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage is _____ miles. This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the Partner's construction company.

The contribution of Duct across the Rock River and installation labor over a three year period is \$525,000.

For their contribution to the project, Blackhawk Hills RC&D will receive ownership of at least 48 fibers in the cable in a cable with no less than 96 fibers and no more than 144 fibers along the path. Rock Falls acknowledges that government, as assigned by the Partner, shall have an IRU for 48 fibers for eight years renewable every eight years for one dollar.

Rock Falls acknowledges that fibers in cables with more than a count of 96 fibers may need to be provided to local utilities for the use of their duct space through populated areas, crossing of rivers and rail lines. Rock Falls acknowledges that fibers in cables less than 96 may be allocated differently than above but with 50% of the fibers owned by Rock Falls.

Rock Falls receives full ownership of one 144 fiber count cable that crosses the Rock River.



March 23, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling
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 (IBOP)

Dear Mr. Strickling,

The Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership (IBOP) is a state-wide coalition that was established to ensure that all communities in the State have 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. To obtain these objectives, this partnership is engaged in multiple forward looking activities focused on developing policy, creating inter organizational and community partnerships, providing broadband technology assessment and guidance, creating rigorous financial plans, and communicating with constituencies.

To continue to progress in these areas, the Illinois partnership has developed this proposal in response to the opportunity made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Stimulus Funds program. This proposed initiative will be a catalyst that will allow the Illinois partnership to profoundly improve communications for underserved communities throughout the State.

One key objective of this initiative will be to implement a state-wide core broadband foundation, based on optical fiber, that will connect multiple communities in the State in the near term and that will be used for additional development and expansion in the future. Similarly, each of the key regions participating in the Illinois partnership will implement core broadband foundation resources to meet near and long term needs. These regional partnership proposals include:

1. Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – Northwest Region
2. Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – Western Region
3. Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – East Central Region
4. Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – Southern Region

As the lead entity applying for the East Central Region, we acknowledge our participation in the Illinois partnership and commit to include within our network points of intersection that will allow for the integration of the fiber optic system with the larger Illinois broadband initiative. If this proposal is successful, [name of organization] will continue to collaborate with the state-wide coalition to assure a successful broadband plan for the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,


Central Management Services
120 W Jefferson
Springfield IL 62702
217-557-6565
Lori.sorenson@illinois.gov

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between DeKalb Fiber Optics (DFO), Northern Illinois University (NIU) and City of Rockford ("Partner"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

City of Rockford and NIU are unaffiliated government agencies and are not associated with DFO.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

NIU, as lead partner, and the City of Rockford, as sub-partner for the Rockford and Belvidere area, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline DFO as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, DFO has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

DFO, as non lead partner, will support the NIU and City of Rockford application. DFO is a for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

PARTNER



PO Box 664, DeKalb, IL 60115
(815)991-2450 • Fax (815)991-2451
www.dekalbfiberoptic.com

DFO, NIU and City of Rockford fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 23, 2010


Dan Halverson
CEO
DeKalb Fiber Optics

Glenn Trommels
Information Technology Director
City of Rockford

John Lewis
VP, NIU Outreach
Northern Illinois University

PARTNER

Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic link is part of our agreement:

1. Ownership of the associated new installed fiber optic system consisting of fiber optic cable, duct, handholes, locating markers, and other appurtenances and accoutrements as may be installed to support the fiber optic system.
2. DFO will provide engineering and implementation oversight with an in-kind value of \$1,000,000

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage throughout the communities is 90 miles with a construction cost of \$9,000,000.

This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the Partner's construction company.

For their contribution to the project, specific participating partners will receive IRU's to specific counts of fiber. Specifically currently, governments will receive an IRU to 48 fibers along the proposed fiber path.

DFO acknowledges that government, as assigned by the Partner, shall have an IRU for 48 fibers for eight years renewable every eight years for one dollar for a period of 96 years. Three other parties will have an IRU for:

- a. Six fibers along Irene road through Belvidere to the NITT point of presence in Rockford assigned to third parties as separate IRUs.
- b. 24 fibers throughout the entire Rockford, Belvidere and Irene Road system to T6 Communications

PARTNER

PARTNER

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between Design Mill and Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Partner"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk Hills RC&D is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with Design Mill.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Blackhawk Hills RC&D, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline Design Mill as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Design Mill has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

Design Mill, as non lead partner, will support Blackhawk Hills RC&D application. Design Mill is a for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Both Design Mill and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 11, 2010



Christopher C Lord
Vice President
Design Mill, Inc



William J. Tonke, D.D.S.
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D

PARTNER

Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic link is part of our agreement:

1. Access to fiber optic resources in the Elizabeth Illinois area.

Design Mill will contribute \$500 per year for the next three years to support the effort to bring fiber optic infrastructure to Elizabeth Illinois.

PARTNER

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between Geneseo Communications, Inc. ("GCI"), Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Blackhawk") and Northern Illinois University ("NIU"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with GCI. NIU is a university in the State of Illinois and is not associated with GCI.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

GCI, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline Blackhawk and NIU, collectively as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Blackhawk and NIU has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

Blackhawk and NIU, as non lead partner, will support GCI's application and shall not take any action that may harm or provide any unfavorable opinion on GCI's application. As a partner with GCI, NIU is planning interconnection of our network systems in the Northwest Region and those of GCI in the State of Illinois.

NIU, Blackhawk and GCI provide participation, support and interconnection planning with the following Easygrant applicants:

- 6681 - Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership (IBOP) Northwest Region
- 4243 - IBOP East Central Region
- 4317 - Geneseo Communications, Inc. – BTOP Application

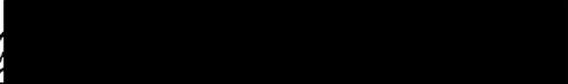
PARTNER

All Parties fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 17, 2010



Scott D. Rubins
President & CEO
Geneseo Communications, Inc.



Dr. William Tonne
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D



John L. Lewis
Associate Vice President
Administration and University Outreach
Northern Illinois University

March 24, 2010

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

Re: Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership

The Illinois Emergency Services Management Association seeks to promote emergency preparedness and the ability to communicate through wireless means.

IESMA is an organization of local emergency management professionals around the state of Illinois at the local level that plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate future emergencies. Having access to high speed internet in the rural areas of Illinois is a critical issues for our profession and for the safe response to emergencies in the State of Illinois. The Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership is seen as a key player in making broadband internet access available in the most rural part of the state.

Some in our community have access to DSL or Cable internet service, most do not. For these individuals and families, a \$50-\$70 monthly DSL or Cable internet connection is often unaffordable. For others, especially in rural and remote areas, high-speed broadband service is not available, except from satellite Internet Service Providers.

We understand that the IBOP fiber network will bring robust, high-speed Internet infrastructure to more parts of Illinois, and help make faster broadband available in more communities throughout Illinois.

We support this public-private effort because we believe that a national investment in Illinois' broadband network will have a significant impact upon online learning, health IT, enhanced 911, advanced research, and economic development, and Illinois' ability to implement that National Broadband Plan. It will also serve as the foundation for additional development and expansion in the future. These objectives, in turn, will improve the quality of life for all individuals across the state.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

James W. Pitchford IPEM
Chairman
IESMA Communication Committee
Past President IESMA 1993
Coordinator Macoupin County EMA
Carlinville, Illinois



3400 CONIFER DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
217-789-4632 / FAX 217-789-4642

March 24, 2010

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

Re: Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership

The Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) is a not-for-profit corporation functioning as a trade association for municipalities that own and operate their own electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and telecommunications systems in Illinois. It is composed of 65 municipalities, 57 associate members and seven affiliate members.

For many municipalities, existing middle mile network infrastructure is inadequate. As such, IMUA supports creating high-quality middle- and last-mile broadband options in every Illinois community. In particular, IMUA is committed to ensuring that communities have greater access to higher-speed Internet connects.

We understand that the IBOP fiber network will bring robust, high-speed middle mile network infrastructure to more parts of Illinois, and help make faster broadband available in more communities throughout Illinois, and will allow points of interconnection to IMUA last-mile providers and members.

We support this public-private effort because we believe that a national investment in Illinois' broadband network will have a significant impact upon online learning, health IT, enhanced 911, advanced research, and economic development, and Illinois' ability to implement that National Broadband Plan. It will also serve as the foundation for additional development and expansion in the future. These objectives, in turn, will improve municipalities across the state.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Earl
President & CEO
Illinois Municipal Utilities Association

*PARTNERS IN DELIVERING
EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY SERVICES.*

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGENCY
ILLINOIS PUBLIC ENERGY AGENCY
ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION
WWW.IMEA.ORG

March 24, 2010

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

Re: Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership

The Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living is the statewide association representing the 23 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Illinois. The purpose of INCIL is to facilitate the collaboration of all CILs in Illinois for promoting, through the Independent Living Movement, equal opportunities and civil rights for all persons with disabilities.

Through the centers, persons with disabilities in Illinois are empowered with the knowledge and skills to make their own life choices and pursue their own goals of self-sufficiency and full participation in their communities. While some in our community have access to DSL or Cable internet service, most do not.

As in many other states, the individuals with disabilities in Illinois face high levels of unemployment and low income. For these individuals and families, a \$50-\$70 monthly DSL or Cable internet connection is often unaffordable. For others, especially in rural and remote areas, high-speed broadband service is not available, except from satellite Internet Service Providers.

Broadband Internet service is so important to our members because it enables two-way video communication from the Centers in which our members live. For individuals with disabilities, particularly those that live in rural areas, access to broadband can be life-transforming.

INCIL

One West Old State Capitol Plaza
Suite 501
Springfield, IL 62701
Voice/TTY: 217-525-1308
Fax: 217-525-1312
1-800-587-1227

No limit to
what we
can Do!

We understand that the IBOP fiber network will bring robust, high-speed Internet infrastructure to more parts of Illinois, and help make faster broadband available in more communities throughout Illinois. We support this public-private effort because we believe that a national investment in Illinois' broadband network will have a significant impact upon online learning, health IT, enhanced 911, advanced research, economic development, and Illinois' ability to implement that National Broadband Plan. It will also serve as the foundation for additional development and expansion in the future. These objectives will improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities all across the state.

If I can offer any further support for the IBOP, please contact me at 217-525-1308.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ann Ford.

Ann Ford
Executive Director

*Comprehensive
Economic
Development
Strategies in Jo Daviess County*

August 7, 2009

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne:

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois, (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, a community college, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation and major hospitals in the area. Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to the Task Force Member communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to the citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D upgrades its infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dave Jansen.

Dave Jansen, Chair
Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

LASALLE COUNTY BOARD

707 East Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone: 815-434-8242
FAX: 815-434-8250

Jerry L. Hicks
Chairman



March 16, 2010

Mr. John Lewis
Vice President University Outreach
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express on behalf of the LaSalle County Board our strong support of the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI).

The LCBI seems to us to be an innovative public/private partnership which will enrich the educational opportunities available to our youth, improve public safety and health, and generally enhance the quality of life for the citizens of LaSalle County.

Perhaps most importantly in these very troubled economic times which have resulted in an unemployment rate of 15 per cent in LaSalle County, the LCBI will provide the unrestricted, high speed, broadband access at competitive rates which we need to encourage economic growth and the creation of new jobs.

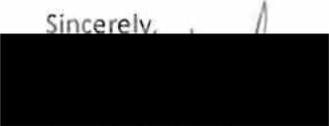
Even our own LaSalle County government operations will be impacted with the LCBI saving local taxpayers thousands of dollars each year. In addition, the much greater bandwidth speed now available to the County will enable our employees to be more efficient and productive.

With these major benefits to the people of LaSalle County in mind, we agree to support the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative as follows:

- Manage the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project as a subcontractor for Northern Illinois University (NIU). It is our understanding that NIU will focus primarily on the administration of the federal funding while LaSalle County will manage the ongoing sustainability and network maintenance responsibilities of the LCBI.
- Provide a cash or in-kind pledge of up to \$100,000 towards the non-federal match requirement of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant application.

The installation of a high speed fiber network throughout LaSalle County as envisioned by the LCBI will provide immeasurable economic development and quality of life improvements to the people we represent as members of the LaSalle County Board. You can be very sure the County of LaSalle will fulfill its obligations and ensure that our constituents realize the full benefit of this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,


Jerry L. Hicks, Chairman
LaSalle County Board



PO Box 664, DeKalb, IL 60115
(815)991-2450 • Fax (815)991-2451
www.dekalbfiberoptic.com

LaSalle County Broadband Initiative

RE: Narrative on DFO's In-Kind contribution

DFO, a fiber infrastructure company, is pleased to work with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative to assist in the construction and management of the proposed fiber optic facilities. Given the scope of the project, and following the model of the "DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority" (DATA), DFO is willing to provide \$1,000,000 in project management, engineering, and oversight. This may represent up to 5 positions throughout the life of the project, including:

- Project design and preparation
- Subcontractor oversight
- Cable installation and splicing
- Other as required

All donated in-kind labor will be noted as such on the payroll reports.

Sincerely

Daniel W. Halverson
Principal
DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC

110 E. Walnut St.
Oglesby, IL 61348
Tel. 815/883-3389
Fax. 815/883-9858



www.oglesby.il.us
oglesbyclerk@yahoo.com

March 15, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Infrastructure
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am writing to express the strong support of the City of Oglesby for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access will clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Oglesby through more effective emergency services, better health care, and increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access will benefit our community in the following ways:

- Emergency services - our police department will have better capability of transmitting information from the servers at the station to the squad cars. This will make the processing of reports less lengthy and the office will be more productive in serving the City.
- Health care — our clinics will be able to communicate faster with hospitals regarding patients. This will give them the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays, and/or test results for patients.
- Education - our schools will have greater broadband access throughout the district. This will also help them to link with other schools and the college to share educational resources.
- Libraries – High speed internet connections allow library patrons to navigate the Internet in an efficient manner. In today's economy Internet access at libraries is crucial to patrons seeking employment, utilizing online classes, completing independent study programs as well as general Internet usage.
- Business - our local businesses will be able to stay competitive and possibly add more economic development to the area.

The City of Oglesby has its own electrical utility and will allow the LCBI project to utilize its poles. This use has a value of \$278, 460.

We look forward to working with the LCBI Project to make life better for the citizens of Oglesby and surrounding communities.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

[REDACTED]

Anthony Torres
Mayor



City of Peru



Scott J. Harl
Mayor

P.O. Box 299 • 1901 Fourth Street • Peru, IL 61354-0299
Off: 815-223-1148 • Fax: 815-223-9381 www.peru.il.us sharlmayor@peru.il.us



March 9, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Infrastructure
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am writing to express the strong support of the City of Peru for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access will clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Peru through more effective emergency services, better health care, and increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access will benefit our community in the following ways:

- Emergency services - our police department will have better capability to transmit information from the servers at the station to the squad cars. This will make the processing of reports less lengthy and the office will be more productive in serving the City.
- * Health care — our hospital will be able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This will give them the ability to transmit files, x-rays and/or test results for patients that have been transferred to another hospital.
- Education - our schools will maintain to have a greater broadband access throughout the district. This would also help them to link with other schools and the college to share educational resources.
- Libraries – High speed internet connections allow library patrons to navigate the Internet in an efficient manner. In today's economy Internet access at libraries is crucial to patrons seeking employment, utilizing online classes, completing independent study programs as well as general Internet usage.
- Business - our local businesses will be able to stay competitive and possibly add more economic development to the area.

Peru currently has a 96 fiber backbone that loops through the City in a figure eight format. We are actually leasing dark fiber to existing customers, the YMCA, Illinois Valley Community Hospital and it connects the City of Peru offices, with the partnership of IV Net. The enhanced broadband access would benefit the citizens of Peru by providing them with internet service access at a lower rate. The City of Peru will allow the LCBI use of 12 fibers of the City's system which has a value of \$644,300.

We look forward to working with the LCBI Project to make life better for the citizens of Peru and surrounding communities.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Harl
Mayor

City Commissioners
Daniel F. Aussem
Accounts & Finance

Edward V. Whitney
Public Health & Safety

Dale F. Baxter
Streets & Public Improvements

Wayne A. Eichelkraut, Jr.
Public Property

CITY OF OTTAWA

ROBERT M. ESCHBACH
MAYOR

301 W. MADISON STREET, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS 61350



Pool, Leigh & Kopko
Corporation Counsel

Donald J. Harris
City Treasurer

David A. Noble
City Engineer

Shelly L. Munks
City Clerk

Phone: 815-433-0161
Fax: 815-433-2270
www.cityofottawa.org

March 15, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express the strong support of the City of Ottawa for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI).

The top priority of the City of Ottawa at the moment is the pursuit of economic growth and the creation of new jobs. Increasingly, though, our economic development efforts are limited by the lack of unrestricted, high speed broadband available at reasonable rates. Undoubtedly, this unfortunate situation will only intensify as more and more businesses and industries require high speed broadband access as a prerequisite for locating in Ottawa.

To make matters even worse, Ottawa is located in LaSalle County which is now facing an unemployment rate of 15 percent. Clearly, new jobs and economic growth are desperately needed. It seems to me the LCBI has the potential to make a very big difference in this area – especially with its planned connection to the Ottawa Industrial Park.

In addition, the LCBI will help make the operations of the City of Ottawa more efficient; will increase the effectiveness of the City's emergency service providers and will enrich the educational opportunities available to the students of Ottawa.

I particularly want to note the potential of the LCBI to enable the just established Ottawa satellite campus of Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) to flourish. While the IVCC Ottawa Center will provide Ottawa residents with an immediate wealth of additional educational opportunities, the high speed connectivity between the Ottawa Center and the home campus in Oglesby and Northern Illinois University has vast educational potential.

With these advantages in mind, the City of Ottawa is pleased to make a pledge of \$20,000 towards the non-federal match required by the federal application regulations.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in bringing unrestricted, high speed broadband to LaSalle County.

Very truly yours,


Robert Eschbach
Mayor

"The City Where Lincoln Walked"

City of Marseilles
209 Lincoln Street
Marseilles, Illinois 61341
Phone: (815) 795-2133 Fax: (815) 795-6600
www.marseillesil.net

James H. Trager, Mayor

Bob Davis, Accounts & Finance
Jim Hollenbeck, Public Health & Safety
Cheryl O'Brien, Streets & Improvements
Jim Buckingham, Public Property & Water

Richard Burton, Attorney
Michael Etscheid, Engineer
John Knudson, Zoning Officer
(815) 795-5654

Mary Oslanzi, City Treasurer

Jacquelyn Spencer, City Clerk

Laurie Trager, Assistant City Clerk

March 11, 2010

Reed Wilson
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison St.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Reed:

The City of Marseilles supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative. The City would benefit because Broadband access would greatly enhance the City's potential for economic development. The City's emergency services providers could access Broadband to provide better service to our citizens. The City could utilize Broadband to provide more efficient and cheaper ways of connecting its various departments to one another and to other governmental agencies. The City's Library could benefit from Broadband because it would provide access to more and better information for the Library and its clients.

Even though the City of Marseilles supports this project, we do have some concerns. These concerns are summarized by one of our Commissioners, (See Attachment), and I as Mayor agree with those concerns.

In conclusion, the City of Marseilles will support this project with a non-binding pledge of \$10,000 towards its completion.

Sincerely,


James H. Trager
Mayor

Village of Grand Ridge
315 Railroad Avenue
P.O. Box 745
Grand Ridge, Illinois

Phone: 815/ 249-6462
Fax: 815/ 249-6462

Kay Hines, Mayor

March 16,2010

Mr. Reed Wilson
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Mr. Wilson:

It is with great pleasure to report our village trustees have voted to support the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative with a pledge of a non-binding amount of \$2500.00. This pledge is for a period of two years.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kay Hines.

Kay Hines, Mayor



CITY OF MENDOTA

15 March 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Mendota, I am very pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI).

During this dire economic situation where the City of Mendota, as well as the County of LaSalle, contends with an unemployment rate of 15%, we strive to invest in projects that will make the city attractive to businesses and industries. Having high speed broadband at reasonable rates will allow the city to pursue more and varied types of industry. Broadband, together with interstate access, rail access and utility capacity will make the City of Mendota a legitimate site competitor.

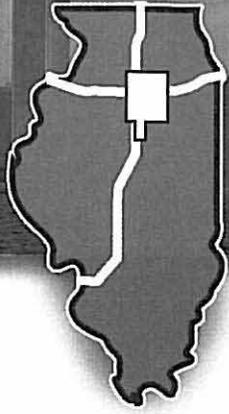
Additionally, the LCBI will increase the efficiency of emergency services. Hospital services and educational facilities will also benefit immensely from the LCBI.

With that, I am happy to pledge \$10,000 on behalf of the City of Mendota to the non-federal match required by the federal application regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative.

Sincerely,

David W. Boelk
Mayor



LaSalle County
Development
Connection

Bring your business to endless opportunity.

March 16, 2010

Mr. Reed Wilson, Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The LaSalle County Development Connection (LCDC) is the primary economic development organization in LaSalle County as its mission is to foster economic growth and new job creation all across LaSalle County. The LCDC draws its membership and financial support from virtually every economic sector in LaSalle County. Its membership includes the following organizations:

- * Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, a number of smaller communities.
- * Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce
- * Ameren IP (electric utility)
- * Illinois Valley Contractors Association
- * City of Ottawa
- * City of Mendota
- * Illinois Valley Community College
- * LaSalle County
- * North Central Illinois Council of Governments
- * Illinois River Area Chamber of Commerce (Marseilles, Seneca)
- * Illinois Valley Building Trades Council
- * Streator Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry

As an economic development organization, we clearly understand the very significant and growing need for unrestricted, high speed broadband access in LaSalle County. We know how difficult it will become to attract new business, retain current business and encourage local business expansion without this type of broadband access being available at competitive prices.

LaSalle County Development Connection

www.lcdconline.org

c/o Illinois Valley Community College
815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue
Oglesby, IL 61348-9692

Phone: (815) 224-0428
Fax: (815) 224-0276
E-mail: info@lcdconline.org

With in mind, the LaSalle County Development Connection is very pleased to have this opportunity to express our strong support for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI). Furthermore, we will bolster our vocal support with a financial pledge of \$5,000 toward the non-federal match required of the LCBI by the federal grant application rules of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Installing the 184 miles of fiber optic network will give LaSalle County – with its unemployment rate of 15% - a tremendous and very badly needed economic boost.



Steve Johanson
Chairman



611 E. Stevenson Rd. • Ottawa, IL 61350
815-434-4484 • fax 815-434-4494

March 10, 2010

Dear LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Representative:

As one of the larger employers in LaSalle County whose been in business for 25 years, I would like to request that we be given the opportunity to have unrestricted, high speed broadband access at competitive rates to our area.

LaSalle County has so much to offer, I should know, I've called it home for the last 53 years. We need this so we can stay up with technology, otherwise we will be on the losing end of so much.

By offering this service, we will not only retain businesses in our area but also attract new businesses. Current businesses will also be able to expand and grow due to reduced costs. And, in turn more people may consider the area to live and we may see an economic development boom from this technology.

I can attest how technology can help a company grow and thrive. As a family owned and operated business, we have family members across the country involved with the business in one capacity or another. Technology is an important part of us being able to successfully manage our business based in Ottawa.

That is why I would like to offer my support for this project, if the federal government grants are approved, with a pledge to donate \$10,000 over a 2-year period. If this occurs, then I would like the fiber to be run to my business located at 611 E. Stevenson Road, Ottawa, IL 61350.

Thank you for considering my request to bring unrestricted, high-speed broadband access at competitive rates to LaSalle County.

Sincerely,



Seattle Sutton, RN, BSN
Founder & President
Seattle Sutton's Healthy Eating
1-800-442-DIET (3438)



International Titanium Powder
Cristal US, Inc.

Cristal US, Inc.
d/b/a/ International Titanium Powder
1501 Titanium Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350

March 15, 2010

Northern Illinois University (NIU)

Re: LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI)

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written to express our support to Northern Illinois University in the form of a pledge of \$10,000 in cash contribution provided NIU is successful in attaining the LCBI federal grant funding. This pledge will be paid in two installments; one-half in budget year 2012 and one-half in budget year 2013.

Sincerely,

William R. Wingereid
Controller
815-834-2112

March 16, 2010

Mr. Reed Wilson
Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express the strong support of the Clover Technologies Group for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) and its efforts to provide our area with unrestricted, high speed broadband access at competitive prices.

One of the fastest growing private companies in the United States, Clover Technologies Group, Inc. is the global leader in providing business with total environmental solutions, including the recycling and remanufacturing of imaging supplies. Clover is the world's largest collector and recycler of cell phones, inkjets and laser cartridges. Headquartered in Ottawa, Illinois in LaSalle County, Clover has locations in North America, Europe and Asia and employs more than 3,500 people across the world.

With its very strong commitment to environmental stewardship, superior product quality and excellent customer service, Clover recognizes the great value of access to cutting edge telecommunications and information resources. Specifically, this access will both permit greater operational efficiencies with the three Clover facilities in LaSalle County while also positioning Clover Technologies to continue its very strong record of rapid growth and new job creation.

However, beyond advantages for Clover, we see the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative as an innovative public/private partnership with great potential to provide more economic development and new job creation opportunities to LaSalle County; to enrich the educations of LaSalle County students and to generally strengthen the quality of life available to the people of LaSalle County.

With this in mind, Clover Technologies Group, Inc. is pleased to pledge \$10,000 towards the non-federal match which the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative must provide as part of its application for federal funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program established by the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009.

Best wishes for success with this creative approach towards providing badly needed unrestricted, high speed broadband access to Ottawa and LaSalle County.

Sincerely,



Tjm Linsenmeyer
CIO



I.V. Net, LLP

P.O. BOX 297

PERU, ILLINOIS 61354

815-223-8022

cpoint@ivnet.com

I.V. Net, LLP AGENT: *Connecting Point Computer Center - Peru, IL*
Connecting Point Computer Center - Streator, IL

Agent's Phone #: 815-223-1052

Agent's Phone # 815-673-1057

2/17/10

Kevin Lindeman
North Central Illinois Council of Governments
110 N. Main St.
Princeton, IL 61356

Mr. Lindeman,

On 2/16 three representatives from our company along with myself attended a meeting at the city hall in Ottawa Illinois. The meeting was organized by the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI). Representatives from the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) presented to our group the need for higher broadband access in LaSalle County.

DATA presented the proposed grant that would make LaSalle County a part of their broadband initiative.

The name of our company is I.V. Net and we are an ISP in Peru IL. We know first hand the need to be able to give our customers higher internet speeds at reasonable prices. Their presentation clearly showed how we can partner with the group from LCBI. By collaborating with this group I feel we will not only be able to increase the speeds our local businesses require but also become competitive with other companies who offer broadband internet services in our area.

Our company highly endorses the LCBI proposed initiative and will participate anyway we can to support the proposed grant.

Sincerely,

Jeff Borelli
I.V. Net, LLP

H I Cable
102 South Main Street
Lostant, Illinois 61334-0230
815-368-3341

Kevin Lindeman

North Central Illinois Council of Governments

110 N. Main Street

Princeton, IL 61356

Mr. Lindeman,

On 2/16/2010 I attended a meeting at the Ottawa City Hall in Ottawa, Illinois. It was organized by the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI). Representatives from the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) presented to our group the need for higher broadband access in LaSalle County.

Data presented the proposed grant that would make LaSalle County a part of their broadband initiative.

The name of our company is H I Cable and we are a Wireless Internet Service Provider and cable internet provider located in Lostant, IL but serving small communities and rural residents of LaSalle County as well as some of the bordering counties. We know firsthand the need to be able to give our customers higher internet speeds at reasonable prices. Their presentation clearly illustrated how we can partner with the group from LCBI. By collaborating with this group I feel we will not only be able to increase the speeds our local businesses require but also remain competitive with other companies who offer broadband internet services in our area.

Our company highly endorses the LCBI proposed initiative and will participate any way we can to support the proposed grant.

Sincerely,

Milton Fred Hartenbower

H I Cable, Owner



**ILLINOIS VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue
Oglesby, IL 61348-9692
Telephone: 815-224-2720
Fax: 815-224-3033

Office of the President

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC), I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

IVCC's access to high speed broadband is nonexistent. Currently the college spends over \$38,500 per year for a 12Mb connection to the Internet through the Illinois Century Network. Comcast, the local cable company, cannot provide an affordable solution and AT&T has indicated that they have no plans to extend Gigabit range services to the LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby area.

If a high speed broadband network, such as Northern Illinois University's NIUNET, could be extended into the Illinois Valley, both public and private entities would have access to an affordable high speed broadband connection, and IVCC's connection costs could be reduced by over two thirds. IVCC needs to have broadband connections between the IVCC campus in Oglesby, the new satellite center in Ottawa, and four-year institutions such as Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University to handle the high quality video and audio that create the immersive, face-to-face experience required for effective teaching at a distance.

High-speed broadband access and connectivity are vital for economic growth, global competitiveness, education, innovation, and creativity. Ensuring high-speed broadband access for everyone has become a critical national issue, especially when considering preparing the next generation for work and life in the 21st century. However, surveys conducted by the Pew Internet and American Life Project indicate that although 57 percent of those interviewed nationwide indicated having broadband connections at home, only 41 percent of rural respondents could make the same claim. This gap in broadband access will result in the continued disenfranchisement of rural residents as society moves further along the information highway. High-speed access is a necessity in a global economy and a critical part of economic development, revival, and survival in rural areas, such as the Illinois Valley.

High-speed networks provide a myriad of benefits to a region. The network could be used for public safety applications, such as notifying households or other locations of problems. Warnings of tornadoes, floods, and industrial accidents could be addressed to specific geographic clusters of networks. Residents could gain critical seconds of warning in an emergency.

Of course, education is also a compelling application. Schools need high-speed access to effectively create rigorous, technology-infused learning environments. Teachers need guaranteed, long-term access to high-speed broadband to enrich the curriculum by including technology applications such as videoconferencing and distance learning. Students need high-speed broadband access to overcome the digital divide in rural and low socio-economic areas.

As IVCC moves forward with plans to build a Community Technology Center and to establish an instructional center in the City of Ottawa, access to reliable high-speed broadband access is becoming increasingly critical. One potential and very exciting opportunity to augment curriculum through the application of high-speed connectivity is being discussed: IVCC currently offers the Making Industry Meaningful in College (MIMIC) program, a nationally recognized program for innovation in placing electronics, engineering design, manufacturing, and marketing students in mock companies that select, design, prototype, manufacture, market, and sell products. The program mimics industrial company structure, allowing students to experience a workplace environment in a classroom setting. Through the application of high-speed broadband access, Advanced MIMIC could take this learning experience to the next level. By placing some elements of the process in Ottawa and others in Oglesby, the program could more closely simulate the real-world, global economic production and distribution chain.

In addition, IVCC is working closely with regional public universities to make baccalaureate and graduate programs available to residents of our district; broadband access is critical to this effort. It is often impossible to sustain a cohort model of instruction in specific fields of study, since this requires 20 or more students to be enrolled in a program at any given time. However, by utilizing internet delivery methods, even one place-bound student could have the opportunity to complete a program of study and launch a new and exciting career.

Enhanced broadband is important because it creates opportunities for a spectrum of applications ranging from new forms of entertainment and education to ways of improving health and safety. In particular, it is very important for education, where a new digital divide threatens to open between urban and rural students. For this reason, the IVCC community strongly supports any efforts to bring high-speed broadband access to the Illinois Valley and is willing to provide reasonable financial resources to achieve this objective.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jerry Corcoran
President

cc: IVCC Board of Trustees
Robert M. Eschbach, Mayor, City of Ottawa
Reed Wilson, Director of Economic Development



Illinois Valley Community Hospital

925 West Street, Peru, Illinois 61354

Phone 815-223-3300 • Fax 815-223-3394

www.ivch.org

February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Illinois Valley Community Hospital for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of LaSalle County through more effective emergency services, better health care, better internet access at libraries, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our hospital by being able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This could give them the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays for patients that have been transferred to another hospital.

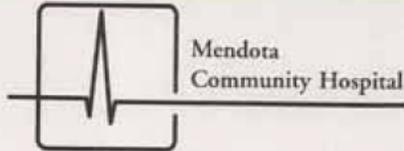
We have several remote clinics and a partnership forming with Illinois Cancer Care. This would greatly enhance our ability to serve the community.

Illinois Valley Community Hospital supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative efforts in bringing unlimited wireless high speed broadband access to the area throughout LaSalle County.

We thank you for your efforts in applying for the funding being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project to make life better for the citizens of LaSalle County.

Very truly yours,


Stephen M. Davis
Chief Financial Officer



February 18, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Mendota Community Hospital for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of LaSalle County through more effective emergency services, better health care, better internet access at libraries, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our hospital by being able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This could give them the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays for patients that have been transferred to another hospital.

Access to this proposed broadband initiative will help Mendota Community Hospital with high-speed connection to our satellite clinics as well as enhance the speed in which our diagnostic images are received by our radiologist who at a remote site. This will improve patient care as well as patient safety. This initiative will also help meet requirements for the ARRA regulations regarding the transfer of protected health information (PHI). We are also participating in an initiative to bring telehealth services to rural communities who have limited access to specialty physicians.

Mendota Community Hospital supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative efforts in bringing unlimited wireless high speed broadband access to the area throughout LaSalle County.

We thank you for your efforts in applying for the funding being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project to make life better for the citizens of LaSalle County.

Very truly yours,


Lynn E. Klein
Administrator/CEO


Gilbert Hermosillo
Information Services Manager



February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of LaSalle County through more effective emergency services, better health care, better internet access at libraries, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our hospital by being able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This could give them the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays for patients that have been transferred to another hospital.

In regard to enhanced broadband access needs, we have currently upgraded our network switch infrastructure and connecting all of our "on campus" buildings via fiber.

However, we are in the process of building two new physician offices - one on the south side of Ottawa and one in Marseilles. With these two new locations, we have the need to connect these buildings to our network - whether it be "line of site" connectivity, fiber, T1's, or secure access through a proposed City of Ottawa broadband solution. We anticipate there will be additional off-campus locations in the future that would also require secure network connectivity.

We also have physicians that use wireless tablets on our campus to access our Electronic Health Record system, as well as Home Health nurses that travel with their wireless tablets that require network connectivity. However, once they've traveled outside of the building they no longer connect to our wireless network. Therefore, we utilize AirCards in the tablets which enables them to have Internet access without having to rely on hot spot availability. With a proposed broadband solution, we wouldn't need the AirCards.

Wireless connectivity to outside agencies (i.e. - Ambulance Services) would also be a benefit.

Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center Hospital supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative efforts in bringing unlimited wireless high speed broadband access to the area throughout LaSalle County.

We thank you for your efforts in applying for the funding being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project to make life better for the citizens of LaSalle County.

Very truly yours,

Curt Sesto

Director of Facilities, Telecommunications & Electronics



February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I am writing to express the strong support of St. Mary's Hospital for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of LaSalle County through more effective emergency services, better health care, better internet access at libraries, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

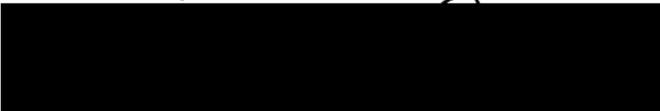
Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our hospital by being able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This could provide the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays for patients that have been transferred to another hospital and support statewide health information exchange initiatives.

Broadband availability may provide faster, more economical communication between St. Mary's Hospital and St. Mary's Healthcare Ottawa located at 1640 First Avenue, Ottawa, IL. It would potentially reduce the cost of transmitting x-ray images to Chicago for disaster recovery purposes. As we partner with physicians, broadband would facilitate patient care at physician practices such as Parkview Family Practice located at 109 E. Elm Street, Streator, IL, St. Mary's Vascular & Thoracic Surgery located at 104 E. Bridge St., Streator, IL, and practices in small rural communities to the south of Streator (Dwight, Wenona, Minonk and Toluca).

St. Mary's Hospital supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative efforts in bringing unlimited wireless high speed broadband access to the area throughout LaSalle County.

We thank you for your efforts in applying for the funding being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project to make life better for the citizens of LaSalle County.

Sincerely,


Joanne Fenton
President/Chief Executive Officer



LaSalle Public Library

www.lasalle.lib.il.us

305 Marquette Street ♦ LaSalle, Illinois 61301 ♦ Phone (815) 223-2341 ♦ Fax (815) 223-2353
Hours: Mo. & We. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Tu & Th 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Fri & Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

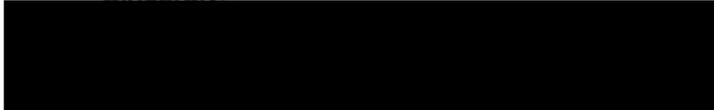
Dear Chairman Hicks,

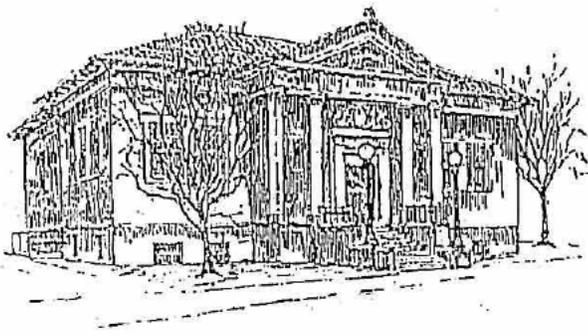
Access to Internet services through a free public library is no longer a luxury; it is a basic service that citizens of library districts in LaSalle County have come to demand. However, lack of speed as well as the high cost to provide high speed Internet services is a deterrent to successful access.

Robust high speed Internet connections allow library patrons to navigate the Internet in an efficient manner. For a population, both in the City of LaSalle and LaSalle County, that has been significantly compromised by the economic downturn of the past year, free high speed Internet access provided by a public library is crucial to the job seeking process, online educational classes and independent study programs, as well as general Internet usage. Dollars saved by low cost, high speed access, will allow the LaSalle Public Library as well as other libraries in LaSalle County, to purchase further online databases as well as other electronic resources that are critical to the information needs of today's library patrons.

I strongly support this LaSalle County Broadband Project grant application that, through its success, will enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and families in the City of LaSalle and LaSalle County.

Sincerely,


Laura Frizol
Director



Marseilles Public Library
155 E. Bluff St.
Marseilles, Illinois 61341

August 11, 2009

LaSalle County Broadband Project

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to serve as a pledge of support for the LaSalle County Broadband Project from the Marseilles Public Library, located in the town of Marseilles, in the LaSalle County of the state of Illinois.

A participant in this project, the Illinois Valley Community College, serves our community and is equally important to the education of our young adults, the future of our town and hopefully our county.

The unlimited high speed broadband access at very reasonable rates would be highly important to our community of 4,655 residents. This library currently has a database of approximately 2,800 patrons and (5) public access computers. We are seeing more and more patrons utilize our services as these economic times are being constrained as they are at present. Patrons are taking classes online to further their education and the unemployed are using online services to search out new employment. In recent days, all of our computers are occupied all day long. With technology advancing faster than the average household or business can afford in these times, it is very important for members of a community, and a county, to pull together to help one another take advantage of any and every opportunity available to maintain high standards of service.

It is the hope of this library's staff, our nine-member Board of Trustees, and the residents of Marseilles that the LaSalle County Broadband Project be granted funding so that public services throughout the county of LaSalle can continue on its current high standard.

Respectfully yours,


Gloria Votava
Library Director

Peru Public Library

1409 11th Street
PERU, ILLINOIS 61354
PHONE 815-223-0229
www.perulibrary.org

LaSalle County Government Building
Attn: Chairman Jerry Hicks
707 E. Etna Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350

February 16, 2010

Dear Chairman Jerry Hicks,

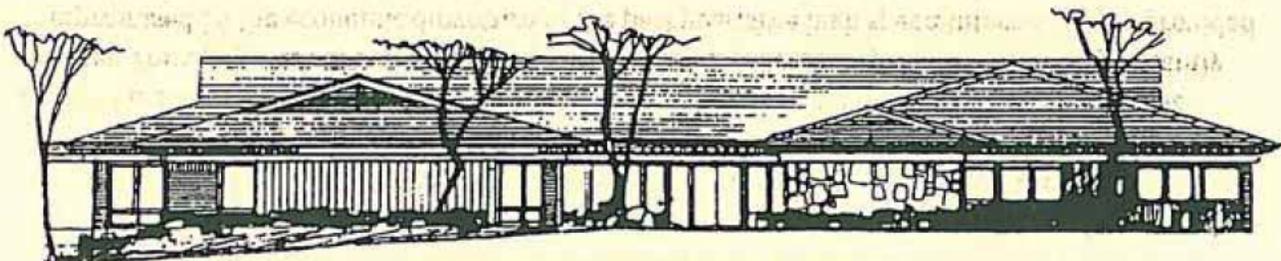
We support the LaSalle County Broadband Project grant application.

The Peru Public Library is limited in its bandwidth and we project more will be needed in the near future. Access to Internet services through a free public library is no longer a luxury; it is a basic service that citizens of library districts in LaSalle County have come to demand. However, lack of speed as well as the high cost to provide high speed Internet services is a deterrent to successful access. Fast Internet connections allow library patrons to navigate the Internet in an efficient manner. For a population, both in the City of Peru and LaSalle County, that has been significantly compromised by the economic downturn of the past year, free high speed Internet access provided by a public library is crucial to the job seeking process, online educational classes and independent study programs, as well as general Internet usage. Dollars will be saved by low cost, high speed access, through this grant in the long run for the Peru Public Library as well as other libraries in LaSalle Count.

We are excited about the progress this will bring to our rural facility. We understand that 100mps is possible and makes communication in multiply formats easier. I strongly support this LaSalle County Broadband Project grant application that, through its success, will enrich and enhance the lives of the City of Peru and LaSalle County citizens. I ask you to give it your highest consideration.

Sincerely,


Máry Jean Hauger
Director



Member of the Prairie Area Library System.

R

1010 Canal Street | Ottawa, Illinois 61350 | P (815) 434-0509 | F (815) 434-2634 | www.reddicklibrary.org**REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**

February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

Access to Internet service through a public library is no longer a luxury. It is a basic service that citizens in LaSalle County library districts have come to expect. However, lack of speed as well as the high cost to provide high speed Internet services is a deterrent to successful access.

Robust high-speed Internet connections allow library patrons to navigate the Internet efficiently. For citizens of both Reddick Public Library District and others in LaSalle County, this has been significantly compromised by the economic downturn. High-speed Internet access provided by a public library is crucial to the job seeking process, online educational classes, independent study programs, and general Internet usage. Dollars saved by low cost, high-speed access will allow the Reddick Public Library District and other libraries in LaSalle County to purchase additional online databases and other electronic resources that are critical to the information needs of today's library patrons.

I strongly support this LaSalle County Broadband Project grant application whose success will enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and families in the Ottawa area and all of LaSalle County.

Sincerely,


Kathy Clair-
Director

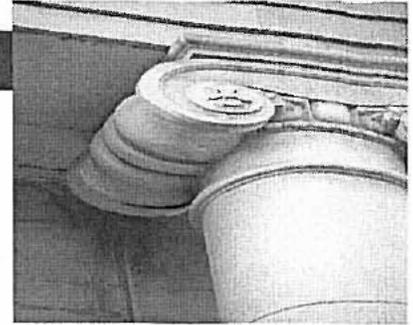
STREATOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 South Park Street
Streator, Illinois 61364

Phone: 815.672.2729

Fax: 815.672.2729

E-mail: [REDACTED]



March 10, 2010

Reed Wilson
La Salle County Broadband Initiative
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Wilson,

This letter is in support of the La Salle County Broadband Initiative for the purpose of high speed broadband access to La Salle County. At present both the staff and our patrons heavily rely on the Internet for everyday activities. The staff communicates everyday with our system headquarters in Rockford, Illinois, using e-mail. The staff register for workshops, attend workshops online, order books from Prairie Area Library System (PALS) member libraries for our patrons, apply for grants online, and submit our Annual Financial Report to the Illinois State Library via the Internet. Weekly newsletters are sent from both the Prairie Area Library System and the Illinois State Library that include links to information needed for our everyday operation. Librarians are linked together by the Internet allowing us to network at any time.

The Streator Public Library has four Internet stations for our patrons to use. They are constantly in use for the 62 hours that we are open each week. Patrons rely on our Internet stations to view e-mail, read the news, and apply for jobs. The Internet is an integral part of everyday life in the library.

Not only will our library profit from the La Salle County Broadband Initiative, but our country dwellers who live in the rural areas surrounding Streator, who are currently underserved, will be served by an efficient broadband service. To be sure, library services available at the Streator Public Library and our service area will be strengthened by the La Salle County Broadband Initiative.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Leslie D. Poldek
Streator Public Library

Village of Grand Ridge
315 Railroad Avenue
P.O. Box 745
Grand Ridge, Illinois

Phone: 815/ 249-6462
Fax: 815/ 249-6462

Kay Hines, Mayor

July 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Village of Grand Ridge for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Grand Ridge through more effective emergency services, better health care, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our community in the following ways:

- Emergency services – brief statement from local police, fire, 9-1-1 agencies
- Health care – brief statement from local health care providers
- Business – brief statements from key local business/industry CEO's and/or economic development agencies
- Library - - brief statement from local library

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the citizens of Grand Ridge and LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kay Hines.

Kay Hines , Mayor

VILLAGE OF LOSTANT
P.O. BOX 230
LOSTANT, IL 61334

LASALLE COUNTY LOSTANT IL

February 16, 2010

Chairman Jerry Hicks
LaSalle County Board
707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Village of Lostant for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Lostant through more effective emergency services, better health care, increased educational opportunities for our students and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Specifically, enhanced broadband access would benefit our community in the following ways:

- Emergency services - our police department would have better capability of transmitting information from the servers at the station to the squad cars. This would make the processing of reports less lengthy and the office could be more productive in serving the Village.
- Health care — area hospitals will be able to communicate faster with other major hospitals regarding patients. This could give them the ability to transmit files and/or x-rays for patients that have been transferred to another hospital.
- Education - our schools would maintain to have a greater broadband access throughout the district. This would also help them to link with other schools to share educational resources.
- Library Services - Access to Internet services through a free public library is no longer a luxury; it is a basic service that citizens of library districts in LaSalle County have come to demand. However, lack of speed as well as the

high cost to provide high speed Internet services is a deterrent to successful access.

- Business - our local businesses would be able to stay competitive and possibly add more economic development to the area.

We thank you for your efforts in applying for the funding being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery Act Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative Project to make life better for the citizens of Lostant and surrounding communities.

Sincerely

Fred Hartenbower
Village President

9-1-1 ETSB

CITY OF OTTAWA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMES DUBACK
PRESIDENT

JEFF NEWBURY
VICE PRESIDENT

DIANA STILES
SECRETARY
TREASURER

DON GANIERE
COMMUNITY MEMBER
AT LARGE

JEFF BANGERT
POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

301 W. Lafayette St.
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-3785
(815) 433-4600 FAX



911
SECONDS SAVE LIVES

July 30, 2009

City of Ottawa
Mr. Reed Wilson
Director of Economic Development
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The City of Ottawa Emergency Telephone Systems Board (ETSB) welcomes and supports the proposed initiative of the City of Ottawa taking the lead for LaSalle County working in conjunction with Northern Illinois University to create a county-wide high speed broadband network access capability. Our ETSB (911 Board) has recently invested in upgrading our interface to allow for voice over internet protocol (VOIP) capability, as well as provide an open architecture for future applications to be implemented as part of the next generation emergency communications systems (NG-911). We plan for future web-based emergency services networks.

Ensuring broadband access by all in an affordable manner, along with the development of a broadband based emergency services model that embraces a wide range of voice, video and data applications, is essential for the future of 9-1-1 and emergency communications. We will all increasingly depend on high bandwidth networks to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The City of Ottawa ETSB supports and applauds your efforts to secure funds for our city to take the initiative coordinating county-wide high speed broadband network access. Northern Illinois University has demonstrated the ability to coordinate such activity with people who have the technological expertise to design and implement such a vision. System reliability, redundancy requirements, security, legal concerns of confidentiality and liability, and the establishment of standards are all critical to shared state, regional and national emergency service IP networks.

9-1-1 ETSB

CITY OF OTTAWA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMES DUBACK
PRESIDENT

JEFF NEWBURY
VICE PRESIDENT

DIANA STILES
SECRETARY
TREASURER

DON GANIERE
COMMUNITY MEMBER
AT LARGE

JEFF BANGERT
POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

We wish you the best in your attempt to secure funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It is admirable that the City of Ottawa exhibits the vision and leadership to implement and utilize the high-speed broadband network opportunities. God speed in your efforts to secure funds to realize these goals.

Respectfully,


James R. Duback
President, City of Ottawa ETSB

JRD/res

cc: Mayor Bob Eschbach
Commissioner Dan Aussem
Commissioner Ed Whitney
Commissioner Dale Baxter
Commissioner Wayne Eichelkraut
Corporate Counsel, Keith Leigh & Anita Kopko
City Clerk Shelly Munks
Treasurer Don Harris
Mr. Dave Noble, Director of Community Development
Ms. Mary Kazmarek, GIS Coordinator

301 W. Lafayette St.
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-3785
(815) 433-4600 FAX



911
SECONDS SAVE LIVES



Dana Fire Protection District
115 E. Washington St.
PO Box 603
Dana, IL 61321
(815) 854-2299 Phone
(815) 854-2299 Fax
firehouse@danafire.com

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express the strong support of the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Dana through the providing of more effective emergency services, and communications opportunities. The Village of Dana would be safer and more secure place to live provided the new capabilities of technologies such as Security Systems that utilize Broadband access to communicate with their parent agencies. This service would also allow the community and Department to utilize the enhanced broadband access in the following ways:

- Real-Time communications via VOIP for Pager, Repeater, and other communications options that is not currently available to a dial-up area.
- Ability for college students to take online classes without the need of expensive Satellite or Wireless Internet Connections that limit bandwidth and disallow the use of streaming video and/or podcasts.
- Ability to rapidly monitor weather situations during severe weather without having to worry about Internet down time due to said weather activities that disable Satellite and WiMax connections.
- The Ability to remotely monitor both communications and computer systems that would otherwise be inaccessible due to low bandwidth connections, such as Remote Desktop Connections and Virtual Private Networks.

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the citizens of Dana and LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,


Cecil Vance
President
Dana Fire Protection District


Gene Klendworth
Secretary
Dana Fire Protection District


Al Peifer
Chief
Dana Fire Department


Robert Sechrest
Secretary
Dana Fire Department

LaSalle Fire and Emergency Services

1227 Fifth Street
LaSalle, IL 61301

Phone 815-223-0834
Fax 815-223-0857

LaSalle County Broadband Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the strong support of the LaSalle Fire Department for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of the City of LaSalle through the providing of more effective emergency services. The City of LaSalle would be a safer and more secure place to live if the LaSalle Fire Department were able to use enhanced broadband access in the following ways.

- a) Improve our ability to receive timely emergency information for national, statewide and county emergency management agencies in the instance of large scale events.
- b) Improve our ability to send communications during emergency situations when conventional systems are overloaded.
- c) Improve our ability to receive severe weather information from the national weather service to disseminate to the public as part of our Storm Ready community designation requires.

Those items are just a few of the enhanced capabilities that we would realize with an improved Broadband system.

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the citizens of the City of LaSalle and LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,



Andy Bacidore
Fire Chief
City of LaSalle



OGLESBY FIRE DEPARTMENT

500 S. COLUMBIA AVE.
OGLESBY, ILLINOIS 61348

Tel: 815/883-3151

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Oglesby Fire Department for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of the City of Oglesby and the Oglesby Fire Protection District through the providing of more effective emergency services. The city of Oglesby and Oglesby Fire Protection district would be a safer and more secure place to live if the Oglesby Fire Department were to be able to use enhanced broadband access in the following ways.

1. Would be invaluable in using the internet for recruitment of new members of the Oglesby Fire Department and also give the community to interact with the dept. online.
2. It would allow members to participate in the ever increasing use of online education in fact some education that is required now by the federal government is only available online.
3. It would allow members to research and exchange ideas and to research new equipment with others involved with emergency services.

Those are just a few examples of what it would do to improve how we do our jobs and how we protect our community.

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the Citizens of the City of Oglesby and the Oglesby Fire Protection District and LaSalle County.

Thank You in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely;


Ronald Popurella
Chief

OGLESBY POLICE DEPARTMENT

128 WEST WALNUT STREET
OGLESBY, ILLINOIS 61348



TEL: 815-883-8404
FAX: 815-883-8114

Tom Kramarsic
Chief of Police

July 30, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

The Oglesby police, fire and ambulance departments wholeheartedly support the city's involvement in the La Salle County Broadband project.

Access to enhanced broadband through fiber and wireless connections will allow our departments to continue to serve the citizens of Oglesby and surrounding communities to the very best of our abilities. Without a county-wide effort and federal funding, state-of-the-art technology would be beyond our small community's grasp.

Enhanced broadband would benefit our departments in the following ways:

- The ability to share information quickly and in a variety of formats could mean the difference between life and death. Our departments' outdated equipment primarily utilizes voice communications, thereby compromising our ability to share information accurately and in real-time. With high-speed broadband access, a variety of information: voice, data, real-time video, etc. would allow us to better serve and protect the citizenry.
- Access to high-speed broadband would enhance training for first responders by providing the opportunity for distance learning through online programs. Broadband access allows volunteers to participate in training at times that are convenient to them.
- High-speed broadband access will allow for a county-wide sharing of databases between police and emergency services. With in-vehicle computers or hand-held devices, this information will be available immediately to first responders. Likewise, on-scene information will be available immediately to decision makers in the event of a major event, such as a tornado. A network such as this would have saved time and effort in April 2004, when a tornado struck nearby Utica.
- With a largely volunteer ambulance staff, the opportunity to access patient medical information instantaneously or to share a patient's condition through monitors or video connections could mean the difference between

life and death. Interconnectivity between first responders and area hospitals could be crucial in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or accident.

While this letter only touches on a few of the ways high-speed broadband access would benefit our departments and the citizens of Oglesby, please know that we are excited about the possibilities such a program would offer a community. We look forward to working with LaSalle County to make this project a reality.

Thank you for considering funding a portion of this endeavor and making this vital project possible.

Sincerely,



Tom Porter
Public Health & Safety Commissioner

cc: Mayor Torres, file



OTTAWA FIRE DEPARTMENT

301 W. LAFAYETTE • OTTAWA, IL 61350

PH (815) 434-3785 • FAX (815) 434-3805



JAMES R. DUBACK, FIRE CHIEF

August 01, 2009

City of Ottawa
Mr. Reed Wilson
Director of Economic Development
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Reed:

Thank you for your efforts in coordinating for the LaSalle County Broadband Project. Having unlimited high speed broadband access throughout our county would provide a myriad of opportunities for the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Responders, Dispatchers, and all law enforcement entities. Such technology will provide the interoperability and information sharing among emergency agencies that presently is limited to analog or cellular devices.

Broadband in public safety allows for HIPPA compliant communication between dispatch and mobile responders, enables 911 caller/location information to be sent directly to responders, and allows for floor plans, evacuation plans, hazardous material information and remediation cautions to be readily available "on the fly". Interactive maps, GIS, ESRI file overlays and mass communication tools would be enhanced with ability to utilize the benefits of high speed broadband technology.

I whole-heartedly support this effort to secure funds to establish county-wide broadband technology. The future of emergency communication and response will be forever changed with the use of these applications at a local, regional, state and national level.

Thank you for your dedication to the City of Ottawa and its future.

Respectfully


James R. Duback
Fire Chief

JRD/res

CC: Mayor Eschbach
Commissioner Aussem, Commissioner Whitney, Commissioner Baxter,
Commissioner Eichelkraut

OTTAWA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 31, 2009

Re: LaSalle County Broadband Project

BRIAN L. ZEILMANN
Chief of Police

301 W. LAFAYETTE ST.
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
61350-2057

PHONE
815-433-2131

FAX
815-433-4600

WEBSITE
www.
ottawapoliceandfire
.com

In consideration of the proposed LaSalle County Broadband Project, numerous law enforcement based communications enhancements come immediately to light.

With the addition of strategically placed access points, the Ottawa Police Department would use such a broadband network for a number of purposes. The first and most obvious would be for the purpose of establishing direct communications with Police Department's servers for the purposes of completing various case file paperwork including sworn case reports. This would allow for the officers to spend more time on the streets, a requisite of Community Oriented Policing, rather than reporting back to police station when reports must be completed.

Along with this, would also come the ability of the squad cars to receive direct CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) communications from our dispatchers without the obvious security issues with radio traffic, or speed issues associated with other forms of secure communications.

Such a network would also allow for the direct download and saving of squad car videos to special servers located at the police department. Under current conditions, squad cars must return to within several feet of special wireless access points located at the police station for the purpose of downloading squad videos. Not only would a wide area broadband network allow for these videos to be downloaded while officers and their squads remain in the neighborhoods they serve, but with this network, officers would be able to access live feeds from their co-workers squad car cameras, a clear benefit to officer safety.

As a final note, a county-wide broadband project as proposed would enhance communications between law enforcement agencies and their respective officers/squads when often times the immediate communications between agencies are restricted due to differing radio frequencies and other communications.

In short, it is the intent of the Ottawa Police Department to fully support the development of the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Brian L. Zeilmann
Chief of Police

DOUGLAS P. BERNABEI
Chief of Police



SCOTT J. HARL
Mayor

August 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Peru Police Department for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Peru through the providing of more effective emergency services. The City of Peru would be a safer and more secure place to live if the Peru Police Department was able to use enhanced broadband access in the following ways:

- Police officers will be able to do their incident reports in the car instead of doing them in the station.
- It will enable an officer in one squad to view the video that is being recorded in another squad.
- During a disaster, it will be easier to coordinate responses to a disaster.

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the citizens of Peru and LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Douglas P. Bernabei
Chief of Police

DPB/mmw

1503 FOURTH STREET
PERU, ILLINOIS 61354

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Email: chiefbernabei@perupolice.org
www.peru.il.us

Administrative Phone: 815-223-2151
Fax: 815-223-2267

WENONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

205 South Walnut Street
Wenona, IL 61377
Phone: 815-853-4351
Fax: 815-853-4686

August 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the strong support of the City of Wenona Police Department for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the quality of life of the citizens of Wenona through the providing of more effective emergency services. The City of Wenona would be a safer and more secure place to live if the Wenona Police Department was able to use enhanced broadband access in the following ways:

- Police & Fire
- Schools
- Ambulance
- Library

We look forward to working with the LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for the citizens of Wenona and LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,



Tom Martin
Chief of Police
Wenona Police Department



LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education

1009 Boyce Memorial Drive Ottawa, IL 61350

Mary Jane Chapman, Executive Director

Pamela Carretto, Assistant Director

PHONE/TDD: (815) 433-6433 FAX: (815) 433-6164 EMAIL: mchapman@lease-sped.org WEBSITE: www.lease-sped.org

July 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the LaSalle County Broadband Project that would enable LaSalle County to install a fiber backbone throughout the county in order to bring low cost broadband access to the area. An increase in the availability of high quality web-based instructional applications afford local school districts the opportunity to enhance the educational experiences of the students they serve, however, the costs associated with increased bandwidth to utilize these applications keeps them out of reach for many of our rural school districts.

The LaSalle/Putnam Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E.) was established to help schools support students with disabilities throughout our service area. One of the services we provide is training and technical assistance for school staff. Although we are able to offer trainings utilizing internet accessible laptops in our office, these types of trainings put a strain on our infrastructure that result in slow access to websites and web-based applications. These trainings also require school staff to travel outside of their district. If we were offered better options for increased bandwidth, we would be able to develop training videos, teleconferences and on-line trainings that local educators could access according to their schedule, reducing travel and time away from students.

L.E.A.S.E. would welcome the availability of affordable broadband access which would benefit students and educators throughout LaSalle County.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Chapman
Executive Director

"The mission of L.E.A.S.E. is to promote quality educational programming for the benefit of students with disabilities by providing support services to all schools in LaSalle and Putnam Counties."



MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL

1000 PAUL STREET

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS 61350

Phone (815) 433-0125 Fax (815) 433-2632

July 30, 2009

Robert M. Eschbach, Mayor
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mayor Eschbach,

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the enhanced broadband access project. Marquette welcomes the opportunity to participate as a partner in this broadband project. By having access to this type of technology the faculty and students, at Marquette, would have more rapid access to various internet sites that would augment their technology needs in their classes. In addition to the increased speed that the additional broadband would provide, we may gain access to new sites which will increase our educational research opportunities. It is our sincere hope that this project can be achieved in the very near future. It is this type of funding that can bring state of the art technology to our community. We wholeheartedly support this venture.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Ronald J. Spändt
Principal

Marseilles Elementary School

201 Chicago Street
Marseilles, IL 61341

JoEllen S Fuller
Superintendent

e-mail: jfuller@mes150.org

Telephone: 815-795-2162
Fax: 815-795-3415

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

To whom it may concern:

The Marseilles Elementary Board of Education and administration, after discussing the possibilities of broadband internet, have decided to provide this letter of support to the LaSalle County Broadband Project. This project would benefit our students and educational program by adding a much faster access to the internet which would make it much more accessible for on the spot teaching and learning. Students and staff would spend much less down time in seeking information. The possibilities for use are much too numerous to mention them all.

Please send updates as to how this project is progressing. If I may be of any further assistance please contact me at jfuller@mes150.org.

Yours in education,



JoEllen Fuller, Superintendent
Marseilles Elementary School
201 Chicago Street
Marseilles, IL 61341

Phone: 815-795-2162
Fax: 815-795-3415

MENDOTA

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

2300 WEST MAIN STREET • MENDOTA, ILLINOIS 61342 • PHONE (815) 539-7446 • FAX 538-2026 • DISTRICT #280

August 3, 2009

RE: LaSalle County Broadband Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Mendota Township High School is in full support of the LaSalle County Broadband Project. During the past two years, MHS has explored the possibility of adding another T1 line to our facility, but have been unable to proceed with this initiative because of the financial burden it would put on our district.

Currently, we experience a significant slowdown of our computer network during school hours. This year, we are adding a fifth computer lab and know the extra traffic on our T1 line will cause an increase slow down of our computer network.

Web-based curriculum and computer based courses are ever increasing. We feel it is imperative to best prepare our students for the technological world they will face after high school, but are facing issues such as the T1 line. An additional high speed broadband would greatly increase the quality of education we are able to offer our students.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeff Prusator
Superintendent

Oglesby Public Schools, District 125

Administrative Office
Michael J. Pillion, Superintendent
755 Bennett Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348
Tel: (815) 883-9297 Fax: (815) 883-3568

To Whom It May Concern-

I am writing this letter as an interested party in the La Salle County Broadband Project that is being proposed in partnership with Northern Illinois University. The Broadband Project would provide a fiber backbone to the county and this would have a direct positive impact on Oglesby Public Schools. As of now, our district does not use broadband. Our current system sometimes hinders our ability to work together between the two schools as well as being done at a much slower speed. Through the use of fiber, we would have dramatically changed our capabilities. Much of what we have to report for the Illinois State Board of Education is all submitted through computer today. Files have to be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Education as well as submitted through our systems. By having fiber, we would be able to do this at much more efficient speeds and not worry about being timed out in the process and losing data.

Along with helping improve our information gathering, the most important aspect of being a part of this project is that it would allow us to have better capabilities and providing more opportunities for our students. There are many programs that use the internet to provide information, but due to our current capabilities, we are unable to use these new technologies. In the past, we had an opportunity of using a direct dialing system for one of our students with special needs, but were unable to effectively run the program due to the strain that it put on our current system. The broadband service would allow the school to take part in real time instruction in other areas of the world. With the constant change that takes place in technology, there are opportunities that are available through computer access that we are not able to link directly to at this time, but the use of broadband would give us that capability.

I support the project to bring fiber throughout the County and look forward to the opportunities that could develop for both Lincoln and Washington Schools due to the updating of the technology.

Sincerely,

Michael Pillion, Superintendent
Oglesby Public Schools
District #125

Lincoln School

CINDY POZZI, District Principal - 755 Bennett Ave. Oglesby, IL 61348 Tel: (815) 883-8932 Fax: (815) 883-3568

Washington School

CINDY POZZI, District Principal - 212 West Walnut St. Oglesby, IL 61348 Tel: (815) 883-3517 Fax: (815) 883-9282

Matthew Winchester
Interim Superintendent

(815) 433-1323
FAX (815) 433-1338

Laura Pastirik
Assistant Principal
Jeff DeWalt
Assistant Principal
Dan Clausen
Dean of Students

Michael Tresnak
Interim Principal

Ottawa Township High School
211 E. MAIN STREET
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

March 9, 2010

Mr. Reed Wilson, Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Reed,

Ottawa Township High School District #140 supports the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative (LCBI) efforts to bring unrestricted, high speed broadband access to LaSalle County. Numerous school districts in LaSalle County would directly benefit from the educational benefits and cost savings the LCBI would provide.

Our teaching staff currently accesses numerous online resources to supplement curriculum materials and also utilizes the Internet to provide up to date information as a primary teaching tool in the classroom. There have been several instances when we have maximized all of our available bandwidth which causes upload and download issues. The unrestricted broadband access could help us alleviate this problem.

Unrestricted, high speed broadband access could allow us to take advantage of distance learning opportunities that currently are not available to our students. I can vision OTHS linking with the Regional Office of Education, Illinois Valley Community College, and Northern Illinois University for some very exciting learning opportunities.

The LCBI would also allow our District to increase bandwidth to support enhancing our computer management systems, from our business office to the classrooms. In addition, OTHS would also take advantage of the ability to utilize video streaming for a variety of classroom projects and District events. Increased bandwidth, at an affordable price, would allow us the opportunity to accomplish these goals.

In closing, OTHS supports and hopes to see the funding of this project become a reality so school districts in LaSalle County can take advantage of the enhanced learning opportunities the LCBI could bring to our students.

Sincerely,



Matt Winchester

Seneca Community Consolidated School District #170

Eric Misener-Superintendent

174 Oak Street

Seneca, Illinois 61360

Telephone 815-357-8744

Fax 815-357-1516

Mr. Reed Wilson
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
301 W. Madison St.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Mr. Wilson,

On Behalf of the Seneca Grade School, I am offering this letter of support for the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative.

Currently, Seneca Grade School has access to one T-1 line. As educational and technological advance have moved toward internet based programs, we have been limited by the speed and ability of our current system. We have been searching for options for additional bandwidth and this project seems like a perfect.

I also believe that bringing high speed broadband capabilities to the Village of Seneca will be a huge asset to the community.

Sincerely,


Eric Misener

Seneca Township High School District 160

307 East Scott Street – PO Box 20 – Seneca, Illinois 61360

(815) 357-5000, Fax (815) 357-5050

www.senecahts.org

July 30, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of Seneca Township High School's support of the LaSalle County Broadband Project. We appreciate the efforts of the City of Ottawa to partner with the DeKalb County Project to provide broadband access to LaSalle County.

Technology has become an important component of education in recent years. The District has purchased four mobile laptop carts that can be used in the classroom to provide internet access for the students without having to move to the computer lab. Enhanced broadband access will increase the effectiveness of this initiative.

Enhanced broadband will also help the students to efficiently access and use many reference resources such as library databases. Downloading and viewing videos and photos on the computer will be much faster and easier. This will enable our teachers to provide relevant and current information to supplement their curriculum.

Due to the expense of providing the enhanced broadband network to a rural area such as LaSalle County, it will be necessary to obtain funding for this project. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide the avenue for enhanced broadband access. The students and faculty at Seneca Township High School will benefit from this endeavor.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Mark D. Thurwanger
Superintendent

Community Unit School District No. 2

Serena, Illinois 60549

3/8/2010

Daniel P. Joyce
Superintendent
Community Unit 002
2283 N. 3812th Road
P. O. Box 107
Serena, IL 60549
p: (815) 496-2850
f: (815) 496-9234

Patrick Leonard
Principal
Serena High School
2283 N. 3812th Road
P. O. Box 107
Serena, IL 60549
p: (815) 496-2361
p: (815) 792-8441
f: (815) 496-2987

Rich Faivre
Principal
Harding Grade School
1643 N. 40th Road
Earlville, IL 60518
p: (815) 792-8216
f: (815) 792-8003

Paul D. Schrik, Sr.
Principal
Serena Grade School
2283 N. 3812th Road
P. O. Box 107
Serena, IL 60549
p: (815) 496-9250
f: (815) 496-2987

Randy Goodbred
Principal
Sheridan Grade School
115 E. St. Johnson Ave.
P. O. Box 328
Sheridan, IL 60551
p: (815) 496-2002
f: (815) 496-9521

Mr. Reed Wilson
Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Reed,

CUSD #2 strongly supports the efforts of the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative to promote access of broadband internet service county wide. This is especially true in CUSD #2. In our District, the Robert Rowe Library in Sheridan is the only reliable source of internet access available to the public. That is limited to members of the public who are in the library's district.

Currently, CUSD #2 has access to 3 T-1 lines. We pay on the average \$670 a month for this service. With greater bandwidth, we can enhance our current hardware in order to take greater advantage of the internet. Our technology surveys indicate that broadband access is greatly desired by our community. Some areas of our community have DSL service. There are several companies that offer wireless broadband, broadband thru Dish Network or Direct TV. Most people in the community could get broadband service; the problem is the cost, which is around \$60/month for most services.

The goals of this initiative of increasing the availability of technology while reducing the costs are laudable and necessary. This will have a lasting, positive impact on the amount of economic opportunity offered to the residents of our learning community and the county as a whole.

In closing, I would like to state that the CUSD #2 greatly supports this initiative as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Joyce
Superintendent
CUSD #2
Serena, Illinois

...a great place to learn.

Streator Township High School

District #40

Dr. Kevin A. Myers
Superintendent
Fax: 815.673.1238

202 W. Lincoln Avenue
Streator, Illinois 61364-2102
Phone: 815.672.0545
Fax: 815.673.3637

Mr. Nick J. McGurk
Assistant Principal/Activities

Mrs. Amy Jo Mascal
Principal

Mr. David D. Holmes
Assistant Principal/Dean

March 9, 2010

Mr. Reed Wilson, Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to express the strong support for the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Enhanced broadband access would clearly improve the high speed communications and enhance the company through more effective emergency services, better health care, increased educational opportunities of our students, and a greatly improved ability to compete for new jobs and economic growth.

Streator High School will be able to provide the following in-kind contributions – the switches, cable, fiber, and labor in the building.

We look forward to working with LaSalle County Broadband Project to make life better for business and the citizens of LaSalle County.

Thank you in advance for helping to provide the resources needed to make this vital project a reality.

Sincerely,



Kevin Myers, Ph.D.
Superintendent

KM:cf

Vision Statement

Streator Township High School is committed to partnering with parents and our community to help all students develop to their complete potential.

EEOC

Tonica Community Consolidated Grade School District #79

535 N. 1981 Road • Tonica, IL 61370
815/442-3420 • FAX 815/442-3111

March 5, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the LaSalle County Broadband Project. As superintendent of Tonica Community Consolidated School District #79, I feel it is imperative that we educate our students to become technology-savvy 21st century students that are able to compete in an increasingly complex, diverse and interconnected global community.

The collaboration between Northern Illinois University, Illinois Valley Community College and the mayors and village presidents of LaSalle County to make the LaSalle County Broadband Project a reality will assist in developing these technology-savvy 21st century students by transforming learning in our schools.

At Tonica Grade School, over 90% of our students are currently meeting and exceeding on the Illinois state assessments. However, the LaSalle County Broadband Project could help us offer even more effective teaching and learning opportunities for students. For example, the increased bandwidth would allow us to do interactive multi-media projects, create online tutoring opportunities, offer foreign language courses via internet, partner with schools in foreign countries and many other exciting learning opportunities.

For our students to be competitive in this increasingly complex, diverse and interconnected global community, it is imperative that our students and staff have access to the broadband technology that is proposed by the LaSalle County Broadband Project.

Please feel free to contact me at school (815) 442-3420 or email twolf@tonicagradeschool.org if you have questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Yours in Education,


Ty Wolf
Superintendent
Tonica Community Consolidated School District #79

Waltham Elementary School District #185

Dr. Kristen K. School
Superintendent
946 N 33rd Road
Utica IL 61373

Phone 815-667-4417
Fax 815-667-4462

July 28, 2009

c/o Mayor Robert Eschbach
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support for the LaSalle County Broadband Project currently being considered. Currently, many parents and community members are unable to obtain high speed internet services and thus our parent communications are very limited.

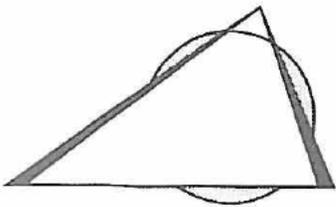
It is our hope that broadband services will be made available in our area which would allow our students/parents access to more services. Our first priority is to provide our parents with access to student grades and other pertinent school information. We also have limited uses for our website due to the fact that not all families are able to connect to the internet.

We are sending this letter to assist and support the LaSalle County Broadband Project in seeking Federal Funding to bring LaSalle County high speed broadband access. Please feel free to contact me if you should need anything further.

Yours in Education,


Dr. Kristen School
Superintendent

“Expectations of Excellence”



SRVTE

200 Ninth Street
Peru, Illinois 61354
815/220-8195 Office
815/220-8267 Fax

Starved Rock Associates for Vocational and Technical Education

Mary Stouffer
System Director

Carol Baness
Special Populations Coordinator

Jeanette Maurice
Tech Prep Coordinator

Edna McManus
Single Parent Coordinator

Schools / Districts

Area Career Center

Depue 103

Hall 502

LaMoille 303

LaSalle-Peru 120

Mendota 280

Ottawa 140

Princeton 500

Putnam County 535

Seneca 160

Streator 40

Mr. Reed Wilson, Representative
LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison St.
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Reed:

Starved Rock Associates for Vocational and Technical Education strongly supports the efforts of the LaSalle County Broadband initiative (LCBI) to obtain funding for providing reasonable broadband access to the LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam County schools that we serve.

Our Education for Employment office serves eleven high schools and thirty one K-8 schools in the three county-wide area of LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam Counties. This effort has the potential of providing our schools with extraordinary educational and career development programming at affordable costs.

Please contact me if there is anything else that I can do to help support this initiative.

Sincerely,



Mary Stouffer
System Director



LaSalle County Farm Bureau

Representing rural families, communities, and agriculture through information, education, and legislation.

August 7, 2009

Reed Wilson
Director of Economic Development
City of Ottawa
301 West Madison
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Reed,

On behalf of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, I am writing to you to extend our support for the proposed LaSalle County Broadband Project.

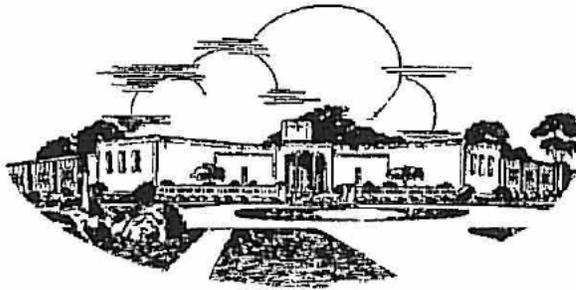
Our members in the rural sections of the county have experienced the frustrations in dealing with the connectivity and affordability of internet service. We feel that the concept of this project will help alleviate some of these problems.

It is for these reasons that we support efforts to develop expanding broadband services to the rural areas of LaSalle County.

[REDACTED]
Monty Whipple
President
Farm Bureau

4201 N. Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350-9540

PHONE: 815-433-0371 FAX: 815-433-9327 E-MAIL: lcfb050@sbcglobal.net



Dickinson Foundation

P.O. Box 202
Oglesby, Illinois
61348

July 8, 2009

Mayor Tony Torres
110 E. Walnut Street
Oglesby, IL 61348

Re: Broadband/fiber optics

Dear Mayor Torres,

Our foundation supports the City of Oglesby's efforts to obtain broadband/fiber optics opportunities for Oglesby to enhance computer capabilities. The Dickinson Foundation, which supports the Dickinson House, sees the computer enhancement as something that would directly benefit the use of the facility.

The facility is used by many organizations for meetings, many of which offer training sessions and other types of presentations. Enhanced computer opportunities will make the facility that much more attractive to the entities that utilize the facility and attract others that otherwise may not use the facility, without the enhanced computer capabilities.

The Dickinson facility is a very busy meeting place. We look forward to many additional opportunities enhanced computer networking will bring to the facility and its users.

If we can offer any additional support or assist in any way, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards.

Yours very truly,



Gary L. Peterkin
President, Dickinson Foundation

GLP/mac
PPAB2/Gary/Broadband/Torres, Tony070809

The Illinois Valley
Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with the
Building and Construction Trades Department

A.F. of L. – C.I.O.

PO Box 766 - Ottawa, IL 61350

March 11, 2010

RE: LCBI

To Whom it may concern:

The Illinois Valley Building Trades are pleased to announce our endorsement of the LaSalle County Broadband Initiative. We believe that economic development is good for the construction industry and we believe bringing enhanced broadband availability to the community will bring job opportunity to our members as well as others.

Several years ago the Illinois Valley Building Trades and the Illinois Valley Contractors Association form a not-for-profit partnership called the Illinois Valley Labor Management program (IVLM). The IVLM will make a significant monetary contribution to the initiative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Steven Conrad

President, Illinois Valley Building Trades Council



Leaf River Telephone Co.

102 West Second Street

Leaf River, Illinois 61047

Phone 815/738-2211

Fax 815/738-6060



LETTER OF INTENT

This Letter of Intent (LOI), by and between Leaf River Telephone Company (Leaf River) and Northern Illinois University ("NIU"), collectively "Parties", is intended to outline the non binding (except as set forth in the final sentence below) general terms and conditions of a final written contract ("Proposed Agreement") between the Parties relating to a business relationship that will include, *inter alia*, the construction of a fiber optic cable from Forreston, Illinois to the western city limits of Byron along Illinois Highway 72 corridor ("Link") as part of a regional 6 county broadband network project involving members of Blackhawk Hills RC&D, Inc., a not for profit Illinois corporation and contributions from private partners ("Project"). Both Parties acknowledge the following:

NIU is not associated with Leaf River.

The Parties acknowledge that there is potential significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

NIU, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline Leaf River as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Leaf River is expected to participate in the Project planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

Leaf River, as non lead partner, will support NIU's application. Leaf River is an Illinois corporation and a women owned business and desires an interest in the Project as described in Attachment 1.

Both Leaf River and NIU fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to using in good faith efforts to enhance the chances of success of this concept.

PARTNER



Leaf River Telephone Co.

102 West Second Street

Leaf River, Illinois 61047

Phone 815/738-2211

Fax 815/738-6060



Both Parties agree that the Proposed Agreement is conditioned on the following:

Absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the U.S. Department of Commerce, the obligations under this LOI shall terminate.

It is understood and agreed that this is a Letter of Intent to proceed with the Proposed Agreement and neither Party is bound until a definitive Proposed Agreement incorporating the terms of this Letter is executed. This LOI is an outline the parties shall use to draft a definitive and contractually binding agreement for execution by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon the acceptance of this LOI by NIU, in consideration of the time and expense by Leaf River associated with Leaf River's efforts in participating the applications contemplated by this LOI, NIU hereby agrees that if a positive commitment is received from NTIA (and/or Dept of Commerce), NIU (or the Project's authorized representative) will negotiate exclusively with Leaf River in good faith, regarding the Proposed Agreement pursuant to the terms of this LOI and in Attachment 1 and Leaf River shall have the right to assign the Proposed Agreement or all or part of the rights herein to a wholly owned subsidiary of Leaf River.

March 23, 2010



Aaron Palmer
President
Leaf River Telephone Co.

John Lewis
VP, NIU Outreach
Northern Illinois University

PARTNER



Leaf River Telephone Co.

102 West Second Street

Leaf River, Illinois 61047

Phone 815/738-2211

Fax 815/738-6060



Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic

The Link shall be part of the Proposed Agreement:

1. Leaf River shall provide and install a fiber optic cable along the Illinois Highway 72 corridor between Forreston, Illinois to the western city limits of Byron with materials, labor, permits and equipment necessary to install the cable.
2. Leaf River shall receive access to two fibers through the Project network built under the NTIA grant to reach the NITT access point in Rockford. The access to the NITT system will be used to provide at least one gigabit link to the Dupage National Technology Park (DNTP) at a charge to Leaf River that shall not to exceed \$600 per month. The two fibers will provide access to vendors that will provide wholesale Internet access at the DNTP that can provide links to vendors in downtown Chicago.
3. Leaf River shall have access to two fibers to Dixon Illinois, or another point within the six county area at no cost with an access point (handhole) location that can provide a fiber optic link to Geneseo Communications, Inc. Negotiations with Geneseo Communications for access to its fiber and facilities is beyond the scope of this document.
4. Leaf River agrees that other private partners in the Project may require two fibers, per partner, through the cable along the Link path, but the number of fibers devoted to other private partners shall not to exceed 24 fibers. In recognition of their contribution to the Project, they will be allowed access to the fiber at no cost beyond their current investment.

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage is approximately 16 miles with an "in kind" value from Leaf River. The fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents approved by NIU's construction company as part of the Proposed Agreement.

For its contribution to the Project, NIU will receive ownership interests to at least 48 fibers in the cable in the Link. Leaf River acknowledges that government entities, as assigned by NIU from its 48 fibers, shall have an IRU for eight years, renewable every eight years for one dollar.

All the remaining fibers in the Link shall be owned by Leaf River. Leaf River shall provide maintenance on the Link and shall be entitled to compensation for operation and maintenance annually at a rate to be agreed upon, but at a rate that is no greater than what is usual and customary for commercial users in the 6 county area at the time of the contract. As part of the Proposed Agreement Leaf River shall have the right to lease, beyond that provided initially, no less than 6 dark fiber facilities (in both directions) to run anywhere throughout the network built under the BTOP grant at a one-time charge of no



Leaf River Telephone Co.

102 West Second Street

Leaf River, Illinois 61047

Phone 815/738-2211

Fax 815/738-6060



greater than \$200 per pair, per strand mile for a term no less than 25 years and renewable under the same terms. The operation and maintenance of the 6 dark fiber shall be at no cost to Leaf River.

PARTNER

Partner



Jo-Carroll Depot

Local Redevelopment Authority

**3651 Crim Drive, Suite 1, Savanna Depot Park, Savanna, Illinois 61074
(815) 273-4371 Fax (815) 273-4312 execdir@LRAsavannail.us**

March 3, 2010

**William. J. Tonne, DDS
Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council President
102 E. Route 30, Suite 2
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071**

Dear Dr. Tonne:

The Jo-Carroll Depot Local Redevelopment Authority, LRA, is an agency of Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. The LRA receives property at the former Savanna Army Depot Activity in the two counties of northwest Illinois from the Army and conveys it to entities for economic development purposes.

The LRA appreciates and supports the efforts of the Broadband Taskforce of the Blackhawk Hills Resource, Conservation and Development District, RC&D, to apply for a grant of approximately \$50 million in the second round of broadband funding. The grant-funded project would answer the call for broadband that the LRA has heard as it has worked to attract and retain employers to the nearly 3,000-acre Savanna Depot Business, Industry & Technology Park, "Savanna Depot Park," which is a half hour north of the Thomson Correctional Center.

The rural nature of the Savanna Depot Park and the RC&D region make access to and use of broadband service by public safety agencies of vital importance to tenants in the Depot Park and the region. The LRA is pleased to learn that the network that will be created with the grant funds will provide dark fiber resources, create needed redundancy and support backup, offsite storage of data.

The lack of a four-lane highway within 5 minutes of the Savanna Depot Park has been one of the major impediments to its redevelopment. That obstacle can be offset, to some extent, by creating the equivalent of a four-lane or better information highway to serve redevelopment of this BRAC'95 base, which closed in 2000, reducing jobs from 423 in 1995 to 61 in February 2010.

William J. Tonne
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
Re: Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application
March 3, 2010
Page 2

Consequently, as a match for the grant, the LRA states the willingness of the LRA to make an in-kind contribution of the following:

1. The middle-mile fiber conveyed by the Army to the LRA as part of the telecommunications infrastructure at the Depot Park in 2003, namely:
 - a. 144 strands of multi-mode fiber optic cable at various administration buildings.
 - b. 8 strands of single-mode fiber from Illinois 84 to Building 1.
 - c. 8 strands of fiber optic cable or more, which ran from Building 1 to 20 buildings at the Depot.
2. The right to access resulting from the LRA contribution of \$153,288 on December 19, 2006 to assist with the extension of fiber from the City of Savanna to the Army Depot Road-Illinois 84 intersection in Carroll County.

The terms of this letter of intent are non-binding, for informational purposes only, and until a definitive agreement is executed, no legal rights are created. If the Blackhawk Hills RC&D is not awarded a broadband infrastructure grant on or before September 30, 2010, the offer by the LRA to provide an in-kind match is withdrawn.

Please obtain a current estimated value of this match and advise the LRA of your findings.

Sincerely yours,


Diane M. Komiskey
Executive Director



Key Partner
Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between Mediacom Illinois LLC (Mediacom) and Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Partner"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline the non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk Hills RC&D is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with MEDIACOM.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, to fund the application described below. Absent said funding, the Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions than the current Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Blackhawk Hills RC&D, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline MEDIACOM as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, MEDIACOM has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

MEDIACOM, as non lead partner, will support Blackhawk Hills RC&D application. MEDIACOM is a for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Both MEDIACOM and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 24, 2010


Thomas J. Larsen
Vice President – Legal & Public Affairs
Mediacom Illinois LLC

William J. Tonne, D.D.S.
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D

PARTNER

Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic links are part of our agreement:

1. All fiber optic cable on the Shabonna to Lee segment.
2. All fiber optic cable on the Hahnaman Road to Route 92 segment.
3. All fiber optic cable on the Seward to Rock City Road segment.
4. All fiber optic cable on the Route 73 to Lake Carroll Road segment.

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage for the above listed segments is 19 miles with a total estimated project construction cost of \$476,878.50. This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the Partner's construction company.

MEDIACOM will contribute \$47,700 to the project which is equal to 10% of the estimated project construction cost for the above listed segments.

For their contribution to the project, Blackhawk Hills RC&D will receive ownership of at least 48 fibers in the cable in a cable with no less than 96 fibers and no more than 144 fibers along the path. MEDIACOM acknowledges that government, as assigned by the Partner, shall have an IRU for 48 fibers for eight years renewable every eight years for one dollar.

MEDIACOM acknowledges that fibers in cables with more than a count of 96 fibers may need to be provided to local utilities for the use of their duct space through populated areas, crossing of rivers and rail lines. MEDIACOM acknowledges that fibers in cables less than 96 may be allocated differently than above but with 50% of the fibers owned by MEDIACOM.

Resolution 2010-0313

Black Hawk Hills RC&D Broadband Grant Application Letter of Support

WHEREAS, Black Hawk Hills RC&D is partnering with Northern Illinois university to apply for a \$35 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to construct broadband fiber optic infrastructure in the western side of Ogle County and five other Counties of Northwest Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk Hills RC&D wishes to connect this broadband access triangle to the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle (NITT) for redundancy purposes; and

WHEREAS, Ogle County's NITT contributions can be used as in-kind services for matching funds required by the grant; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires a 20%-30% match of funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Ogle County wishes to submit a letter of support for Black Hawk Hills RC&D broadband application authorizing Ogle County's NITT Contributions to be accounted as in-kind service contributions for the grant application due March 31, 2010.

Presented and Adopted at the March 16, 2010 County Board Meeting.

Attest:

[Redacted Signature]

Rebecca Huntley, County Clerk



[Redacted Signature]

W. Ed Rice, Chairman

City of Rock Falls Electrical Utilities

(A Municipally Owned Public Power System)
1109 Industrial Park Road
Rock Falls, IL 61071-3161

Phone (815) 622-1145

Fax (815) 622-1149

Partner Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between the City of Rock Falls (Rock Falls) and Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Blackhawk"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline in non binding general terms conditions related to a proposed business relationship. Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with Rock Falls.

Rock Falls, as non lead partner, will support the Blackhawk application contemplated by this agreement. Rock Falls is a municipal corporation and desires to acquire an interest in the proposed fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Northern Illinois University ("NIU"), through its local governmental institute, will assist Blackhawk in the application for grant contemplated by this agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a business relationship with the underlying purpose to promote and carry out the principles established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Blackhawk, as lead partner, with assistance from NIU, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically designate Rock Falls as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, Rock Falls has participated or is expected to participate in planning the project, the exact content and scope to be determined in a definitive agreement if the application for funding is accepted and awarded.

Both Rock Falls and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical

Partner

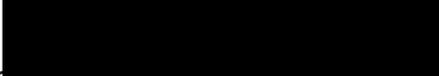
"Proud of Our Past - Confident of Our Future"

component of the proposed project, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

This agreement shall be null and void unless a positive commitment is received from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, in support of the goals to be accomplished under this agreement.

March 23, 2010

City of Rock Falls, Illinois

By: 
Paul Jakubczak, Director,
Electric Utility

Blackhawk Hills R C & D

By: _____
William J. Tonne, D.D.S.
President Blackhawk Hills RC&D

Partner

Attachment 1 Proposed

Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic link is proposed to be the product of our agreement:

- 1.) As used herein, "Anchor Institutions" refers to schools, governmental offices and various offices of governmental agencies and officers. Rock Falls would like to upgrade its current infrastructure which runs to all of the schools and local governmental institutions within the city to serve additional Anchor Institutions as well as to Blackhawk and a PON network. It is estimated that the cost to accomplish this expansion of the Rock Falls fiber optic network should not exceed \$400,000. NIU will place a request for the equipment necessary to accomplish the expansion in the grant application.
- 2.) Rock Falls will provide labor to install approximately 6 miles of fiber, either through existing ducts of Rock Falls or on poles owned by it. The estimated cost for this is \$360,000.
- 3.) Rock Falls will provide labor to install approximately 1 mile of fiber in the existing conduit across the Rock River to Sterling, Illinois. The estimated cost would be \$125,000.
- 4.) Rock Falls will allow fiber to be installed on its poles at no costs. The estimated value of this service would not exceed \$40,000.

In-kind contribution of material by the City of Rock Falls

The City of Rock Falls will allow, without charge, the non-exclusive use of one two inch conduit owned by it across the Rock River.

In-kind contribution of labor by the City of Rock Falls

Partner

Rock falls will provide all labor to install the cable along the following path:

1. Install a four cable segmented PE based innerduct through the duct across the Rock River
2. Install two 144 fiber count cables through the duct across the Rock River.
3. Install one 144 fiber count cable from the river crossing along East 2nd Street in Rock Falls to Avenue C.
4. Install one 144 fiber count cable from East 2nd Street along Avenue C to East 3rd Street.
5. Install one 144 fiber count cable from Avenue C to Avenue A along East 3rd Street.
6. Install one 144 fiber count cable along Avenue A from East 3rd Street southward to East 14th Street.
7. Install one 144 count fiber cable westward along East 14th Street to 1st Avenue.
8. Follow 1st Avenue southward to the south side of the Hennepin Feeder Canal. (Another vendor shall continue the run after the canal).
9. At the junction of 1st Avenue and U.S. Route 30 install a handhole as a junction point for a 144 fiber count cable running along Route 30.
10. From the junction at 1st Avenue, following Route 30 to the junction with I-88. Another vendor shall continue the run from the I-88 junction.
11. Install a 96 fiber cable from existing fiber cable along U.S. Route 30 southward to Riverdale School near the junction of Riverdale and Route 3.

BlackHawk Hills (NIU)

NIU will provide the cable and other materials necessary to install the cable along the path outlined in the preceding section.

Value

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage is 6.5 miles. This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the outside construction company selected by Blackhawk.

The contribution of conduit use across the Rock River and installation labor by Rock Falls over a three year period is estimated to be \$525,000.

Partner

For its contribution to the project, Blackhawk will receive ownership of at least 48 fibers in the cable in a cable with no less than 96 fibers and no more than 144 fibers along the path. Rock Falls acknowledges that governmental entities, as assigned by Blackhawk, shall have use of an IRU for 48 fibers for eight years renewable for successive eight year terms, if the fiber remains intact and useable, for one dollar per term.

Rock Falls and Blackhawk acknowledge that fibers in cables with more than a count of 96 fibers may need to be provided to local utilities for the use of duct space owned by them through populated areas, crossing of rivers and rail lines. Rock Falls and Blackhawk acknowledge that fibers in cables less than 96 may be allocated differently than above but with 50% of the fibers owned by Rock Falls.

Rock Falls shall receive full ownership of one 144 fiber count cable that crosses the Rock River.

Partner

City of Rock Falls

603 W. 10th Street
Rock Falls, IL 61071-2854

Mayor
David H. Blanton
815-622-1110

City Administrator
Richard J. Downey
815-564-1366



City Clerk
William B. Wescott
815-622-1104

March 24, 2010

William J. Tonne, D.D. S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls IL 61071

Dear Dr. Tonne:

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, community colleges, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation, hospitals and clinics in the area.

Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through a collaborative approach. The Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership Northwest (IBOP-NW), an 8-county partnership including Blackhawk Hills RC&D, is now making a \$67M grant application with more than \$9M in non-federal matching funds, to the federal Stimulus Plan. In addition, IBOP-NM has \$14M in State match.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will meet the broadband demand and provide ongoing and long-term benefits to area schools, communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus, expanding infrastructure and creating local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the IBOP-NW and Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,


David H. Blanton
Mayor

"Proud of Our Past - Confident of Our Future"

Rockford Park District

www.rockfordparkdistrict.org



March 24, 2010

Mr. Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir,

Rockford Park District is pleased to write this letter of support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Program, North West Region (IBOP-NW).

Our North West Region has been significantly underserved in broadband connectivity services. The IBOP-NW proposal addresses the need for the Northwest Illinois region to connect and extend fiber infrastructure, and to build a high-capacity network to meet the rapidly growing bandwidth needs of education, government, health care, local industry and private citizens.

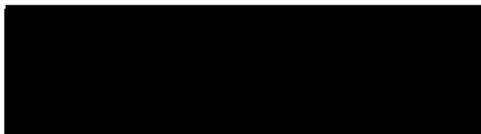
The grant application participants form a unique collaboration of public and private entities gathered to craft a high quality solution for the nine county region. Public entities that will benefit from this infrastructure include libraries, public safety, counties, cities, park districts, public utilities, community colleges, and Northern Illinois University. Private sector participants include telecommunications companies, internet service providers, health care providers, and fiber optic installers.

The Rockford Park District is in desperate need of high capacity, affordable bandwidth to connect our many facilities, including a major water park and 5 golf courses. This proposal would also allow us to implement a complete disaster recovery plan.

This project is critical for developing the network capacity needed in today's globally connected, knowledge based economy. This increased capacity will enhance public safety, provide new educational opportunities, provide disaster recovery capabilities, allow for improved service delivery to citizens and businesses, and serve as a powerful economic stimulus tool for the area.

On behalf of Rockford Park District, we respectfully request you give the IBOP-NW program your most serious consideration

Sincerely,



Sue Cichock
Information Services Manager
Rockford Park District

March 23, 2010

Mr. Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir,

Rockford College is pleased to write this letter of support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Program, North West Region (IBOP-NW).

Our North West Region has been significantly underserved in broadband connectivity services. The IBOP-NW proposal addresses the need for the Northwest Illinois region to connect and extend fiber infrastructure, and to build a high-capacity network to meet the rapidly growing bandwidth needs of education, government, health care, local industry and private citizens.

The grant application participants form a unique collaboration of public and private entities gathered to craft a high quality solution for the nine county region. Public entities that will benefit from this infrastructure include libraries, public safety, counties, cities, park districts, public utilities, colleges and universities. Private sector participants include telecommunications companies, internet service providers, health care providers, and fiber optic installers.

We are genuinely *a community* and we believe strongly that this infrastructure is a critical tool to our community doing what our mission calls for us to do – educate students to change the world.

This project is critical for developing the network capacity needed in today's globally connected, knowledge based economy. This increased capacity will enhance public safety, provide new educational opportunities, provide disaster recovery capabilities, allow for improved service delivery to citizens and businesses, and serve as an powerful economic stimulus tool for the area.

On behalf of Rockford College, we respectfully request you give the IBOP-NW program your most serious consideration

Sincerely,


Robert L. Head, Ph.D.
President



Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

March 23, 2010

Mr. Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir,

As Mayor of the City of Rockford, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Program, North West Region (IBOP-NW).

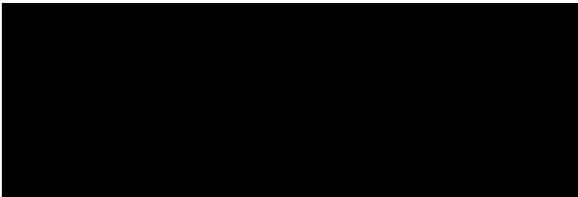
Our northwest Illinois region is underserved in broadband capacity and reach. The IBOP-NW proposal addresses the need for the northwest Illinois region to connect and extend fiber infrastructure, and to build a high-capacity network to meet the rapidly growing bandwidth needs of education, government, health care, and local industry.

The IBOP-NW project is a unique collaboration of public and private entities gathered to propose a high quality, high capacity network for the nine county region. Public entities that will benefit from this infrastructure include libraries, public safety, counties, cities, park districts, public utilities, community colleges, and Northern Illinois University. Private sector participants include telecommunications companies, internet service providers, health care providers, and fiber optic installers.

The City of Rockford needs this high capacity network to enhance public safety operations, to connect our local municipal and educational partners together, and as a tool for economic development.

On behalf of the City of Rockford I respectfully request you give the IBOP-NW program your most serious consideration

Very truly yours,



Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor
City of Rockford

LJM/get

The Village of Scales Mound

“At the top in Illinois”

Jim Davis President

309 North St.

Scales Mound, IL 61075

July 29,2009

Jim Davis, President
309 North Street
Scales Mound, IL 61075

Mr. William Tonne, D.D.S.
Blackhawk Hills RC&D
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

Dear Mr. Tonne,

The Blackhawk Hills RC&D Broadband Task Force, consisting of local governmental and other public service entities in the six northwest counties of Illinois (JoDaviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee County) was formed to explore the potential benefits and related cost of forming a regional high speed, broadband network (Network) that could meet the combined needs of local governments, school districts, library districts, park districts, a community college, a multi-governmental public safety dispatch operation and major hospitals in the area. Initial efforts to expand individual Blackhawk Hills RC&D member networks were too costly and as a result, a combined regional network concept was developed to share the initial infrastructure costs, reduce ongoing maintenance costs and expand the potential benefits to all Blackhawk Hills RC&D members that could be achieved through this collaborative approach.

This project is a significant upgrade of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D's broadband infrastructure that will provide ongoing and long-term benefits to the Task Force Member communities, enhance public safety, provide disaster recovery capabilities, improve service delivery to the citizens and businesses and serve as an economic stimulus to the area as the Blackhawk Hills RC&D upgrades its infrastructure and creates local jobs.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to fully support the Blackhawk Hills RC&D grant application to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis
President, Village of Scales Mound



Monday, March 15, 2010

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, by and between T6 Wireless, Inc dba T6 Broadband (T6B) and Blackhawk Hills RC&D ("Partner"), collectively "Parties", is designed to outline a non binding general terms and conditions related to the upcoming business relationship ("Proposed Agreement"). Therefore, both Parties understand and agree that:

Blackhawk Hills RC&D is an unaffiliated state government agency and is not associated with T6B.

This agreement is dissolved absent a positive commitment from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, that any such Proposed Agreement would probably not occur or would occur under significantly different terms and conditions relative to the Proposed Agreement.

There is significant value in entering into a Proposed Agreement with the underlying basis to promote and carry out the principals established and enacted by the United States Congress and President Barack Obama in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Blackhawk Hills RC&D, as lead partner, will apply for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP"), and such application will specifically outline T6B as a Key Partner, as defined in Section 8 of the BTOP applications, and because of such designation, T6B has participated or is expected to participate in the projects planning, the exact content and scope to be determined by the Proposed Agreement.

T6B, as non lead partner, will support Blackhawk Hills RC&D application. T6B is a for-profit corporation and desires an interest in the fiber optic path described in Attachment 1.

Both T6B and Blackhawk Hills RC&D fully understand that connectivity of anchor institutions and providing access to high speed broadband is a critical component of the Proposed Agreement, and both Parties are committed to ensuring the success of this concept.

March 15, 2010

Daniel Heath
President
T6 Wireless, Inc



William J. Tonne, D.D.S.
President
Blackhawk Hills RC&D



Attachment 1

Proposed Fiber Optic Path

The following fiber optic link is part of our agreement:

1. Links to our facilities at:

1890 Chrysler Dr
Rockford, IL 61008

2 E 3rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

1111 S. Alpine
Rockford, IL 61108

Link from our facility at 1890 Chrysler Dr Belvidere, Il south to route 72 via Irene road and on route 72 from Kirkland, IL to Byron, IL

2. Access to the NITT, and possibly the IBMCA, network for a link to Rock Falls.
3. A link from Rock Falls across the river to Sterling.
4. 12 pair of fiber throughout the network you are proposing.

Total anticipated fiber optic cable mileage is 600 miles with a value estimated to be \$1,500,000. This fiber optic cable will be subject to detailed design documents provided by the Partner's construction company.

T6B shall have an IRU for 24 fibers for eight years renewable every eight years for one dollar.

T6B shall be responsible for a yearly maintenance fee based on a metric of \$0.25 per fiber mile. This fee shall be split between all users (facilities) using the entire cable plant. We are developing detailed costs for the grant, but target an amount of \$5,000 per facility per year for maintenance on the cable (no electronics).



Scott H. Christiansen

County Board Chairman

County of Winnebago

March 23, 2010

Mr. Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir:

As Chairman of Winnebago County Illinois I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Program, North West Region (IBOP-NW).

Our North West Region is broadband challenged. The IBOP-NW proposal addresses the need for the Northwest Illinois region to connect and extend fiber infrastructure, and to build a high capacity/high speed network to meet the rapidly growing bandwidth needs of education, government, health care, local industry and private citizens.

The grant application participants form a unique collaboration of public and private entities gathered to design a high quality solution for the nine county areas. Public entities that will benefit from this infrastructure include libraries, public safety, counties, cities, park districts, public utilities, community colleges, and Northern Illinois University. Private sector participants include telecommunications companies, internet service providers, health care providers and fiber optic installers.

Particular to the County of Winnebago Illinois, fiber connectivity between our downtown and north campuses dramatically improves our communications between our 911 Center and Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. Additionally, the other public service organizations in our North Campus (Animal Services and River Bluff Nursing Home) will benefit from this broadband connection by ensuring high capacity and high speed telecommunications to County Administrative Offices within the downtown campus.

This project is critical for developing the network necessary to compete and operate in an ever increasing automated society. This increased capacity will enhance public safety, provide new educational opportunities, provide disaster recovery capabilities, allow for improved service delivery to citizens and businesses and serve as a powerful economic stimulus tool for the area.

On behalf of Winnebago County Illinois, I respectfully request you give the IBOP-NW program your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Scott H. Christiansen, Chairman
Winnebago County Board, Winnebago County, Illinois

404 Elm Street • Room 533 • Rockford, IL 61101

Phone (815) 319-4225 • Fax (815) 319-4226

E-mail: countyboardchairmansoffice@co.winnebago.il.us WEBSITE: www.co.winnebago.il.us

It is our mission to provide high quality services and promote a safe community for all people in Winnebago County.

In order to comply with the file size restriction

limiting uploaded files to 16 MB each,

more than one dozen letters of support for this project

(which did not commit specific resources to the project)

have had to be omitted.