SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

One Community is a non-profit provider of high speed broadband services to the healthcare, government, education, and social services sectors. The organization's existing middle mile network provides services to more than 1,500 community anchor institutions. The organization has stated that the proposed project will allow it to add 2,000 community anchor institutions over the next 3 years.

The project will provide broadband services to multiple funded service areas throughout 20 counties in Northeast Ohio, an area that has been severely impacted by the economic challenges that face our nation's automotive and manufacturing sectors. With unprecedented foreclosure rates over the last several years, Northeast Ohio has also experienced the severe effects of our nation's housing crisis. The proposal offers a unified approach that would provide service to community anchor institutions throughout Ohio, spanning unserved, underserved, and served communities in both metropolitan and rural areas.

The proposal has unwavering support in the region, largely due to the unfortunate disadvantages the region has experienced because of non-existent or insufficient broadband service. If awarded the funding, the project will maximize broadband coverage in the region, while creating jobs for Ohioans and providing a technological platform for Ohio's future. It is my hope that the economic incentives afforded by the project will benefit Ohio for many generations to come.

As the NTIA reviews the application, I am confident that you will find that the objectives of the One Community proposal are closely aligned with the goals of the BTOP program.
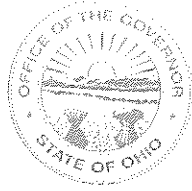
I urge the NTIA to give serious consideration to One Community's application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of the application.

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

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, I have previously identified these priorities for the State of Ohio:
- Job creation
- Investing in Ohio's workforce
- Advanced energy
- Improving Ohio's business climate
- Education
- Heath care
- Strengthening Ohio's cities
- Improving rural Ohio

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

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

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Eric D. Fingerhut
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents

Ohio Department of Administrative Services   Office of Information Technology   614.644.6446 voice
Ted Strickland, *Governor*   Office of the State CIO   614.644.9382 fax
Hugh Quill, *Director*   30 E. Broad Street , 39th Floor   www.das.ohio.gov
H. Samuel Orth, III, *State Chief Information Officer*   Columbus, Ohio 43215

OhioDAS

March 9, 2010

Mark Ansboury
Senior Vice President/
Chief Technology Officer
One Community
800 W. St. Clair Ave., 2nd Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Dear Mr. Ansboury:

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

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

Until recently the use of the MARCS towers was limited to support public safety communications. Although law enforcement remains a priority the State has agreements with public and private entities to co-locate on specific MARCS towers. A recent co-location agreement with Coshocton County and Lightspeed Communications supported the successful expansion of broadband wireless services to 1,000 Ohioans who had no access previously.

The State is committed to continuing to work with various public and private entities to leverage this strategic asset to support broadband connectivity across Ohio.

Sincerely,

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

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

Although each of our three proposals can stand on its merits, together they provide a seamless middle mile solution for the state. Collectively, the federal funds applied for in the three proposals total less than the $150M threshold for the BTOP-CCI category, further reinforcing the integrated design.
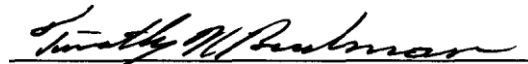
Governor Ted Strickland's letter of support for OMMC recognizes the three related projects as a single integrated middle mile solution for the State, and encourages consideration of projects as a whole. In his letter of support to you he wrote:

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

We are committed to fulfilling the Governor's vision.

_____   _____
Pankaj Shah, Executive Director   Timothy Berelsman, Chief Executive Officer
OARnet   Com Net, Inc.

_____   _____
William A. McKell, President/Chairman/CEO   Charles Berry, Chief Operating Officer
Horizon Telcom   OneCommunity

County Administrator
James R. Cordes
440-329-5760

Assistant County Administrator
Ronald F. Twining
440-329-5530

Clerk of Board of Commissioners
Theresa Upton
440-329-5103

Animal Control Officer
J. A. Szlempa Sr.
440-326-5997

Budget Director
Lisa Hobart
440-329-5201

Charles Berry Bridge Supervisor
Charles Mackin
440-244-2137

Children & Family Council
Melissa Stefano
440-284-4467

Community Development Director
Rebecca Jones
440-328-2326

E-9-1-1 Director
Robin Jones
440-329-5444

Emergency Management & Homeland
Security Director
Thomas Kelley
440-329-5117

Golden Acres Administrator
Jeri Dull
440-988-7210

Human Resources Department
440-329-5150

IT Director
Ernie Smith
440-329-5786

Lorain County Transit Director
Richard Enty
440-328-2490

Maintenance Director
Dennis Shawver
440-329-5326

Office on Aging Director
Patricia Littleton
440-329-4818

Office Services Supervisor
Jennifer Demich
440-329-5115

Office of Sustainability Director
Michael Challender
440-328-2361

Purchasing Director
Yvonne Newton
440-329-5240

Records Center Supervisor
Lynn Wallace-Smith
440-326-4866

Solid Waste Director
Daniel Billman
440-329-5442

Special Projects Manager
Karen Davis
440-329-5102

Workforce Development Director
Vivian Alexander
410-281-1830

March 25, 2010

Roy A. Church
President
Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road North SP 203
Elyria, Ohio 44035

As the Administrator of the Board of Commissioners of Lorain County (OH), I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

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

We are excited about the prospect that Lorain County Community College will be a sub-recipient to the OneCommunity portion of the consortium. We are especially enthused about the prospects that this project will have for the educational and economic development efforts throughout the county, particularly in the southern and less populated part f the county.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to a number of the county's anchor institutions, including the many offices that serve the county's residents, the court systems, the public safety forces like the Sherriff's Department and the Emergency Management Agency, and the many county-supported initiatives for economic and workforce development. It has the clear potential benefit of providing long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and

economic development. It can also help the county bridge the technological divide between low-income and middle and higher-income families and individuals to improve both their educational opportunities and the prospect of engaging more citizens in entrepreneurial-based businesses.

There is currently limited or lack of broadband services in the southern portion of the county, which has negatively affected our ability to provide county services in the most technologically efficient and effective ways. With enhanced broadband access, citizens will be able to access many public records online, instead of having to travel to the northern part of the county to visit the county buildings where such records are kept.
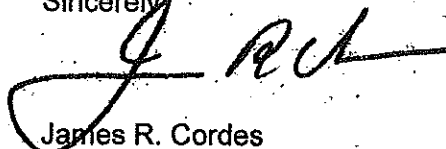
It is difficult to predict exactly how many jobs will be saved or created as a result of the implementation of OMMC project, but it is clear that it will allow the county to develop even more collaborative relationships in additional parts of the county to improve the delivery of public services and information to area residents.

We are happy that the state has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities, and through Lorain County Community College, to meet the educational needs of the county.

We are excited about the possibility and look forward to a favorable review. We will do whatever we can to make this a success for the county and the region.

Lorain County is pleased to be engaged with the OMMC to extend the impact of broadband services.

Sincerely

James R. Cordes
Lorain County Administrator

March 21, 2010

Mr. Scot Rourke
President and CEO
OneCommunity
800 West St. Clair Ave.
Second Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Dear Mr. Rourke:

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

The understanding between OneCommunity and OARnet related to Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project is based on the following:

OneCommunity will provide to OARnet an Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) for dark fiber along each of the following routes:
- Wooster to Akron
- Akron to Cleveland
- Cleveland to Sandusky
- Sandusky to Wooster

Annual fiber maintenance associated with the above routes: $78,250.00

OARnet will provide to OneCommunity an Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) for 10 Gigabit wave service from:
- Cleveland to Youngstown

- Youngstown to Akron
- Akron to Columbus
- Columbus to Cleveland

Total OARnet Project Costs: $4,594,535.68
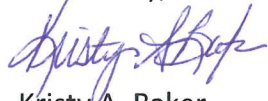
Total Match Dynamics originating from OARnet:
- Cash: $811,239.21
- In-Kind: $1,890,404.98
- Total Match: $2,701,644.19

OARnet Request from Grant: $1,892,891.49

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

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

Yours truly,

Kristy A. Baker
Director
Office for Business & Industry Contracts

Lorain County
Community College

Office of the President

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

As the president of Lorain County Community College, the only publically-supported institution
of higher education in the county, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for and
commitment to the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications to the National
Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology
Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category,
under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

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

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network
[OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered
by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a
comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to
the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center and LCCC has been working with them since
their inception to help advance broadband access in Lorain County.

Lorain County Community College (LCCC) will be a sub-recipient of the OneCommunity
application to help deploy middle mile broadband services to the major educational institutions in
Lorain County, including the K-12 districts and the Joint Vocational School. We will also work
with other community education and training partners such as the County Extension Education
Agency and the County Emergency Management Agency to ensure that these providers are also
better equipped to provide the training programs so critical to their missions. This collaboration
will enable LCCC to provide additional and enhanced distance learning opportunities throughout
the county.

This is especially important for a number of reasons. Lorain County has a very low educational
attainment rate (more than 76% of the population has less than an associate's degree). To meet

the rapidly growing needs for 21st Century skills to compete in the new information-based economy, the workforce must upgrade educational levels and technology skills. Lorain County has also experienced tremendous job losses over the course of the last couple of decades and has never completely recovered from the past four recessionary periods. In January 2010, Lorain County had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 11% -- the highest among all the counties in this economic development region. The counties to the near west, Huron and Erie, had unemployment rates of 18.3% and 14.2% respectively. To the south, Ashland County recorded a 14% rate. For these reasons, it is imperative that we extend the benefits of distance learning opportunities to the residents of these near-by areas. There is little or no broadband availability in the southern part of Lorain County, largely because the commercial providers have determined that the population is insufficient to justify a return on the investments needed for installation. There is also extremely limited access to higher education in the three adjacent counties -- one private university with an annual cost of nearly $40,000 and one branch campus of a public university with an annual cost at approximately twice that of LCCC. Not only is access limited, affordability is also an issue for many residents.
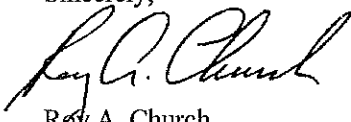
The OMMC project will extend and enhance the college's ability to support broadband services for these crucial educational purposes, as well as to provide support to the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), which has responsibility for training and education for the area's police, fire, and emergency medical personnel. Some of this training is delivered directly by the College through the Police Academy, Fire Science, and Emergency Medical Technician programs. Further, by connecting more directly with the area's fourteen K-12 districts, the college will be better able to provide college-level courses directly to the high schools so that graduating seniors will have had the benefit of securing some college credit before leaving high school. It also provides a venue for our faculty to work directly with K-12 faculty to deliver professional development activity. And finally, the College has a long-standing relationship with the County Joint Vocational School (JVS) and more recent collaboration with the County Extension Education Agency to help provide training opportunities to the county's many small farmers and community gardeners, as part of an overall push to increase the availability of and use of local foods, especially for low-income families and children.

These are critical, non-commercial needs in the county and the proposed project will help the partnership meet more of the needs of the public sector. By supporting the public sector's mission, the project will also provide an infrastructure for the private sector to expand and grow. The most telling statistic about how important it is to meet individual needs through education is captured in the fact that in 1980, 80% of all jobs were with employers of 500 or more; today, 80% are with employers of 10 or fewer. Small businesses are now the engines of the economy, and continuing, life-long education and training is the key to keeping those engines running.

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

On behalf of the entire campus and county community, I am pleased that LCCC is engaged with the OMMC and OARnet to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Sincerely,

Roy A. Church
President

Lorain County
Community College

Office of the President

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

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their inception to help advance broadband access in Lorain County.

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application to help deploy middle mile broadband services to the major educational institutions in
Lorain County, including the K-12 districts and the Joint Vocational School. We will also work
with other community education and training partners such as the County Extension Education
Agency and the County Emergency Management Agency to ensure that these providers are also
better equipped to provide the training programs so critical to their missions. This collaboration
will enable LCCC to provide additional and enhanced distance learning opportunities throughout
the county.

This is especially important for a number of reasons. Lorain County has a very low educational
attainment rate (more than 76% of the population has less than an associate's degree). To meet

the rapidly growing needs for 21st Century skills to compete in the new information-based economy, the workforce must upgrade educational levels and technology skills. Lorain County has also experienced tremendous job losses over the course of the last couple of decades and has never completely recovered from the past four recessionary periods. In January 2010, Lorain County had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 11% -- the highest among all the counties in this economic development region. The counties to the near west, Huron and Erie, had unemployment rates of 18.3% and 14.2% respectively. To the south, Ashland County recorded a 14% rate. For these reasons, it is imperative that we extend the benefits of distance learning opportunities to the residents of these near-by areas. There is little or no broadband availability in the southern part of Lorain County, largely because the commercial providers have determined that the population is insufficient to justify a return on the investments needed for installation. There is also extremely limited access to higher education in the three adjacent counties -- one private university with an annual cost of nearly $40,000 and one branch campus of a public university with an annual cost at approximately twice that of LCCC. Not only is access limited, affordability is also an issue for many residents.
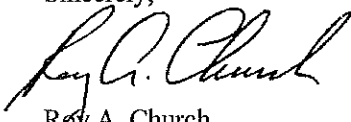
The OMMC project will extend and enhance the college's ability to support broadband services for these crucial educational purposes, as well as to provide support to the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), which has responsibility for training and education for the area's police, fire, and emergency medical personnel. Some of this training is delivered directly by the College through the Police Academy, Fire Science, and Emergency Medical Technician programs. Further, by connecting more directly with the area's fourteen K-12 districts, the college will be better able to provide college-level courses directly to the high schools so that graduating seniors will have had the benefit of securing some college credit before leaving high school. It also provides a venue for our faculty to work directly with K-12 faculty to deliver professional development activity. And finally, the College has a long-standing relationship with the County Joint Vocational School (JVS) and more recent collaboration with the County Extension Education Agency to help provide training opportunities to the county's many small farmers and community gardeners, as part of an overall push to increase the availability of and use of local foods, especially for low-income families and children.

These are critical, non-commercial needs in the county and the proposed project will help the partnership meet more of the needs of the public sector. By supporting the public sector's mission, the project will also provide an infrastructure for the private sector to expand and grow. The most telling statistic about how important it is to meet individual needs through education is captured in the fact that in 1980, 80% of all jobs were with employers of 500 or more; today, 80% are with employers of 10 or fewer. Small businesses are now the engines of the economy, and continuing, life-long education and training is the key to keeping those engines running.

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

On behalf of the entire campus and county community, I am pleased that LCCC is engaged with the OMMC and OARnet to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Sincerely,

Roy A. Church
President

LORAIN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners
Betty Blair Lori Kokoski Ted Kalo

County Administrator
James R. Cordes
440-329-5760

Assistant County Administrator
Ronald F. Twining
440-329-5530

Clerk of Board
Theresa Upton
440-329-5103

Animal Control Officer
J. A. Szlempa Sr.
440-326-5997

Budget Director
Lisa Hobart
440-329-5201

Charles Berry Bridge Supervisor
Charles Mackin
440-244-2137

Children & Family Council
Melissa Stefano
440-284-4467

Community Development Acting
Director
Rebecca Jones
440-328-2323

E-9-1-1 Director
Robin Jones
440-329-5444

Emergency Management
& Homeland Security Director
Thomas Kelley
440-329-5117

Golden Acres Administrator
Jeri Dull
440-988-7210

Human Resources Department
440-329-5150

IT Director
Ernie Smith
440-329-5786

Lorain County Transit
Richard Enty
440-328-2490

Maintenance Director
Dennis Shawver
440-329-5326

Office on Aging Director
Patricia Littleton
440-329-4818

Office Services Supervisor
Jennifer Demich
440-329-5115

Purchasing Director
Yvonne Newton
440-329-5249

Records Center Supervisor
Lynn Wallace-Smith
440-326-4866

Solid Waste Director
Daniel Billman
440-329-5442

Special Projects Manager
Karen Davis
440-329-5102

Workforce Development Director
Vivian Alexander
440-284-1830

March 24, 2010

Roy A. Church
President
Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road North SP 203
Elyria, Ohio 44035

As the Director of the Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

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

We are excited about the prospect that Lorain County Community College will be a sub-recipient to the OneCommunity portion of the consortium. We are especially enthused about the prospects that this project will have for the educational and economic development efforts throughout the county, particularly in the southern and less populated part f the county.

- *The Lorain County Emergency Operations Center, which is located in our facility and is the center of a large scale emergency response in the county, will greatly benefit from this project. We currently have no alternate operations facility in the event we have to evacuate our in-house operations. We have been exploring the use of a building at LCCC for this purpose, but the lack of available broadband capabilities allowing us to send and receive information between the two locations has all but halted the project. The implementation of this project will allow us access to all data and communication networks housed at our current location at an LCCC location. The alternate facility will allow us to continue to operate during an emergency to support the local jurisdictions and emergency responders.*
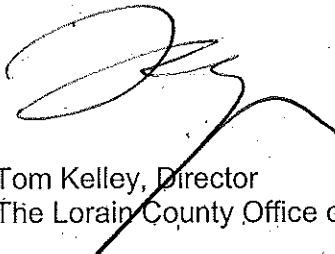
- *In addition, the Emergency Operations Center doubles as a classroom for emergency training. The ability to connect with the college using this technology will provide a significant boost in the training and instructional offerings that we provide to our full time and volunteer personnel.*

We are happy that the state has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities, and through Lorain County Community College, to meet the educational needs of the county.

We are excited about the possibility and look forward to a favorable review. We will do whatever we can to make this a success for the county and the region.

The Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is pleased to be engaged with the OMMC to extend the impact of broadband services in the county.

Respectfully,

Tom Kelley, Director
The Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Barbara R. Snyder
President

10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7001

Visitors and Deliveries
Adelbert Hall, Room 216

Phone 216.368.5094
Fax 216.368.4325
E-mail barbara.snyder@case.edu

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I strongly endorse the enclosed proposal to extend broadband access across Ohio through the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC). This unprecedented coalition of public and private institutions has the potential to dramatically enhance the technology service provided throughout the state – and, more specifically, to increase and improve the research and education efforts of colleges and universities across Ohio.

Six years ago, Case Western Reserve University led the formation of OneCommunity, a regional nonprofit public services internet provider in Northeast Ohio. Today, OneCommunity serves more than 1,500 education, health, government, museum, and library middle mile anchor institutions. In the recently published FCC National Broadband Plan, "Connecting America," OneCommunity is cited as an example of public-private partnerships (Section 6.2 and 8.4) that extend middle mile connectivity and leverage public investments in support of community priorities. This report goes on to cite Case Western Reserve University as a research institution where advanced networks positively impact the lives of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as the surrounding community (Section 7). We have worked to mobilize statewide support for a single application to the NTIA to extend the kind of work that we have been advancing in this region more broadly across Ohio. Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, appreciates the enormous benefits of such connectivity. I applaud his vision in leading this statewide submission.

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

Through the proposed OMMC, Case Western Reserve University and our post-secondary education partners will collaborate with OneCommunity to extend middle mile connectivity to more than a dozen community colleges in Northeast Ohio as part of the statewide plan. Case Western Reserve University has partnered in a wide range of 21st century skills development efforts with the Cuyahoga County Community College system, including a recent submission for Health IT training in Northeast Ohio.

Case Western Reserve University is committed to supporting digital inclusion and broadband training. Our community outreach programs include work to create pilot test beds for advanced network services (Gigabit Fiber to the Home) in our urban, inner-city setting. We also have partnered with the Ashbury Community Computing Center to engage, support, and educate community members on technology literacy. Together with OneCommunity, the Ashbury Community Computing Center won a BTOP grant in round one. We believe that as additional middle mile institutions come on board through the OMMC proposal, new connections to community resources will follow.

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

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

As President of Case Western Reserve University, I am pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage the impact of broadband services in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Snyder
President

BRS/jcv

Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Corporate Office:

5255 St. Rt. 95
P. O. Box 111

District Office:

4993 State Route 521
Delaware OH 43015

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

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to endorse the 'Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse, an Ohio Middle Mile Coalition' fiber-optic network project proposed by OneCommunity as presented in their application for broadband stimulus funds. Consolidated Electric Cooperative, recipient of an award in Round 1, is a member-owned electric cooperative headquartered in Mount Gilead Ohio that operates an electric distribution utility in central Ohio. OneCommunity collaborated with Consolidated Electric Cooperative in the design of interconnection points to our fiber optic network in both their Round 1 and Round 2 grant requests.

Consolidated Electric Cooperative detailed a general lack of affordable Metro-Ethernet services and broadband penetration in its Round 1 application. We saw the need bridge severe and costly interlata connectivity issues in our service area with a dependable middle mile transport option. The network and route proposed by OneCommunity would remedy connectivity and cost issues, further providing telecommunications options beyond Consolidated Electric Cooperative's network. Should OneCommunity be successful in their request for stimulus funds and build the network as specified, it would be the intention of Consolidated Electric Cooperative to purchase wholesale access to the network on behalf of its tenants or negotiate an interconnection as a service provider, specifically as middle mile back-haul to the larger urban areas of Columbus and Cleveland, OH.

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

Sincerely,

Doug Payauys
VP of Information Systems / CIO
Consolidated Electric Cooperative

Consolidated Electric's family of companies:

BCI IT'S YOU-CONNECTED

Bright Energy

Consolidated Gas COOPERATIVE

The People Fund
a part of Consolidated Electric Foundation, Inc.

HOMETOWN CABLE

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to endorse the 'Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse, an Ohio Middle Mile Coalition fiber-optic network project proposed by OneCommunity as presented in their application for broadband stimulus funds. Hometown Cable Company is a private company headquartered in Coldwater Ohio that provides local cable, Internet, and VoIP services in Ohio.

Should OneCommunity be successful in their request for stimulus funds and build the network as specified, it would be the intention of Hometown Cable Company to purchase wholesale access to the network or negotiate an interconnection as a service provider.

Hometown Cable Company has "last mile" business and residential clients in the Northeast Ohio area without sufficient access to affordable Metro-Ethernet services and also has the need bridge severe and costly interlata connectivity issues in our service area with a dependable middle mile transport option. The network and route proposed by OneCommunity would remedy each of those circumstances and provide additional markets for Hometown Cable Company.

We have met with representatives of OneCommunity and mutual vendors who have worked for OneCommunity and have reached the conclusion that OneCommunity is capable of supervising the construction of this network, capable of servicing it, and will be competitive in the pricing for wholesale access .

Again, Hometown Cable Company recommends that the project as submitted by OneCommunity be funded by Broadband Stimulus funds so this network can be built for the long-term economic development of Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Proctor

March 22, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects would extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area. This will enable our institution to:
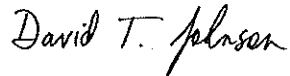
- Improve access to education
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to the public libraries in the area upon which our students rely.

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

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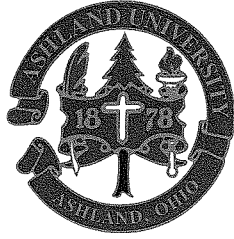
The Art Academy of Cincinnati is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Best regards,

David T. Johnson

David T. Johnson
Interim President

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

Office of the President

March 22, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are currently limited broadband services in Ashland County and the surrounding areas which have severely impacted our ability to affordably deliver courses remotely, provide remote assessment of student teachers in our education programs, and offer training in telemedicine technologies to our nursing students. Additionally, the lack of substantial and affordable broadband has limited our ability to collaborate and share resources with other public and private agencies in the community.
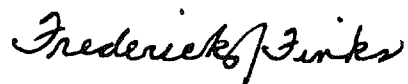
Ashland University is a mid-sized private university in Ohio, located between Cleveland and Columbus. The University operates centers in 8 counties in 2 states, providing professional and continuing education to a variety of metropolitan and rural areas. *We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in greater access for students to participate in educational opportunities and enhance the teaching and learning experience.*

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

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

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

Best regards,

Dr. Frederick J. Finks
President

FJF:lg

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services which will:

- Offer lower cost Internet access and increased speed to residents in this area, thereby supporting our efforts to provide high-quality distance learning programs to the community.

- Support 2,500 commuter students who depend on off-campus connectivity.
- Provide Baldwin-Wallace College with secondary connectivity to the Internet – guaranteeing a critical backup system for the overall functionality of this institution is in place.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Richard Durst, President
Baldwin-Wallace College

BELMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

Office of the President

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as our North Center in Harrison County and the proposed center in Monroe County will enable our institution:
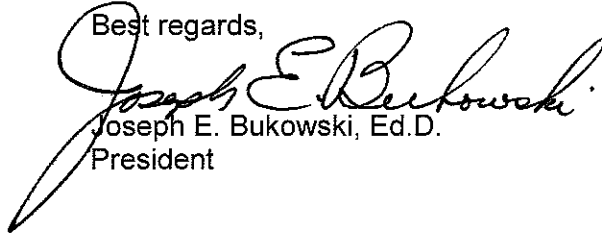
- to offer additional on-line courses to the residents of both of these counties;

- *increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development; and*

- *bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to educational facilities.*

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

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

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

Best regards,

Joseph E. Bukowski, Ed.D.
President

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

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

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to (for example):

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Carol A. Cartwright
President

CENTRAL OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

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

Cincinnati State
TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 22 2010

3520 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223-2690

513-569-1500 tel
www.cincinnatistate.edu

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

John Henderson
Interim President

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

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

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to facilitate the integration of collaborative proposals to forge a comprehensive middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet was established in 1987 to provide access to the resources of the Ohio Supercomputer Center. Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs), which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.
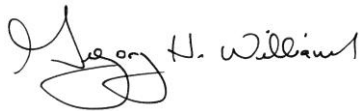
The awarding of these proposals will provide improved broadband across the State of Ohio, which has the potential to increase academic and research collaborations that would not have been possible before. Additionally, partnerships with non-academic public and private entities can also be established due to the increased connectivity the University of Cincinnati will have with the areas affected by the awarding of these proposals.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Gregory H. Williams
President

GHW:ml/mkj

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to do the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Karen E. Rafinski

Karen E. Rafinski, Ph.D.
President

Friday, 19 March 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in Cleveland, such as the Cleveland Institute of Music and our many arts neighbors in the University Circle area.

Our existing Broadband Service is modest; but, it has enabled our small conservatory of music to become a nationally known and respected distance learning content provider. Each year, using video conference technologies, we deliver over 500 "live" and fully interactive

presentations to K-12 classrooms across the United States. We estimate that we are reaching approximately 13,500 students annually and introducing them to classical music while teaching a full spectrum of topics.

Once completed the OMMC projects will enable our institution to:

- o Teach in 54 Ohio counties that we currently can reach only with great difficulty.
- o Offer an expanded concert and recital performance initiative to rural and inner-city schools and communities that may never have experienced classical music.
- o Increase our community outreach to schools, retirement homes and health care facilities throughout the country.
- o Develop collaborative performance projects with partner higher education institutions and K-12 schools that may be very far from Cleveland, Ohio.
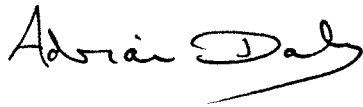
Within our conservatory, completed OMMC projects will simplify our Broadband network configurations and allow us less expensive access to greater bandwidth. In turn, these improvements will allow CIM more collaboration opportunities, more access for our students to receive high level training from artists and conservatories all around the world and enhance our many efforts to increase the audience for classical music.

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

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

The Cleveland Institute of Music is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in the state of Ohio.

Best regards,

Adrian Daly
Dean of the Conservatory
The Cleveland Institute of Music

Cleveland State University

Ronald M. Berkman
President

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The funding of this proposal will open up collaboration for Cleveland State University with other smaller colleges and Community Colleges in Ohio and provide Middle Mile Expansion in surrounding counties such as Lake, Lorain and Geauga. The OMMC proposed projects will enhance:

- Shared internet resources to reduce cost and provide improved delivery and participation for on-line learning programs.
- Education for our youth and adult population, allowing for collaboration between higher education institutions and ultimately support economic development.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Ronald M. Berkman

President
Cleveland State University

COLUMBUS STATE
Community
College

M. Valeriana Moeller, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

550 East Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1609
614/287-2402
FAX 614/621-3506

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area and will enable our institution to:
- Enhance online course offerings to students all around the state of Ohio. Currently Columbus State offers online associate degree programs, 14 certificates, offering more than 650 courses.
- As technology advances and enables these courses to be more interactive and engaging for the students, they will require much higher bandwidth.
- Increased online administrative services for the purpose of admissions, registrations, financial aid, fee payment, and other services are requiring more readily available access for students.
- Enhanced access to student support services such as online library databases, social networking, and other resources greatly enhances students' retention and success.
- Remote access of high-demand computing and applications for students and faculty can potentially result in significant savings in lab equipment and space.

Supporting teaching and learning through utilizing Web2.0, social media, and related technologies is directly tied into the offering and availability of broadband services throughout the state of Ohio. New advancements in virtualization of desktop and laboratory applications has made it possible to offer wider range and variety of programs to students allowing faculty to be more effective and creative in their teaching.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in the increased abilities for the colleges and universities to deliver more content rich courses, and for the students to take advantage of those programs and offerings to enhance their careers and lives.

Immediate benefits of such investment through OMMC will allow anchor institutions including Columbus State to elevate their level of higher education offerings and student services to the next innovative stage directly impacting students' career advancement in the technical, health, business, civil, and many other fields of study. Technologically vested programs such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Health Information Management, Civil Engineering, Information technology, and Construction Management programs are only a few of wide-range of programs that could be enhanced by OMMC offerings.
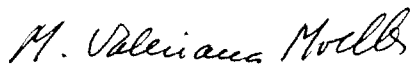
Collaboration and partnership in creating more cost-effective environments that support systems disaster recovery, Software as a Service (SaaS), virtual network storage, and virtual laboratory computing systems are also among opportunities that will be unlocked by OMMC projects.

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

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

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

Best regards,

M. Valeriana Moeller,
President

CONNEAUT
TELEPHONE CO. INC.

March 24, 2010

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

Kenneth E. Johnson
Conneaut Telephone Company
P.O. Box 579
Conneaut, OH 44030

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to endorse the 'Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse, an Ohio Middle Mile Coalition fiber-optic network project proposed by OneCommunity as presented in their application for broadband stimulus funds. Conneaut Telephone Company is a private company headquartered in Conneaut Ohio that provides cable, local telephone, cellular, voice mail, Internet, and long distance services in Ohio.

Should OneCommunity be successful in their request for stimulus funds and build the network as specified, it would be the intention of Conneaut Telephone Company to purchase wholesale access to the network or negotiate an interconnection as a service provider.

Conneaut Telephone Company has business and residential clients in the Northeast Ohio area without sufficient access to affordable Metro-Ethernet services and also has the need bridge severe and costly interlata connectivity issues in our service area with a dependable middle mile transport option. The network and route proposed by OneCommunity would remedy each of those circumstances and provide additional markets for Conneaut Telephone Company.

We have met with representatives of OneCommunity and mutual vendors who have worked for OneCommunity and have reached the conclusion that OneCommunity is capable of supervising the construction of this network, capable of servicing it, and will be competitive in the pricing for wholesale access .

CTC

CONNEAUT
TELEPHONE CO.INC.

Again, Conneaut Telephone Company recommends that the project as submitted by OneCommunity be funded by Broadband Stimulus funds so this network can be built for the long-term economic development of Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Campus

4000 Sunset Boulevard
Steubenville, OH 43952

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

www.egcc.edu

**EASTERN
GATEWAY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
EGCC**

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

Funding the OMMC proposed projects will enable our institution to:
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development.
- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to education and healthcare facilities in northeastern Ohio.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to our current five satellite campuses, twelve post secondary partners, more than fifty high schools, and nearly fifty libraries in our area.

There is currently limited or no broadband services in the rural areas in each of the counties, Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana and Jefferson, which has negatively affected our ability to provide online instruction and resources to our students. It also severely impacts the number of people who will be able to take advantage of our virtual college offerings. Our collaborative model relies heavily on adequate internet upload and download speeds for a successful experience in interactive distance instruction. For example, our Department of Health Technologies is interested in integrating e-HIM Virtual Lab software into its curriculum to emulate hospital and clinic environments, which would improve students' ability to understand and assimilate new information. However, inconsistent bandwidth accessibility for EGGC's campuses as well as our student population limits our capability to provide this type of technology-rich educational programming, which is quickly becoming the norm in better-served areas. Access to affordable broadband is essential if our students are to compete in the 21st century workforce.
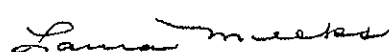
We anticipate that the implementation of the OMMC project will result in increased educational opportunities and related services to our four-county population of 642,970 people. Improved access to college-level courses through broadband technology will increase overall attainment of college degrees, leading to increased wages and industry growth, new business start-ups and overall growth in the economies of our northeastern Ohio.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Laura M. Meeks, Ph.D.
President

LORAIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.
M.P.O. Box 0157 ̶5̶3̶0̶5̶.̶ ̶M̶a̶i̶n̶ ̶S̶t̶.̶
Oberlin, Ohio 44074-0157

(440) 774-2211
FAX (440) 775-2921
lcfb@ix.netcom.com

March 22, 2010

Roy A. Church

President

Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road North SP 203
Elyria, Ohio 44035

As president of Lorain County Farm Bureau, I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure category under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

As president of Lorain County Farm Bureau, I participate in Ohio Connect, to bring broadband Internet access to rural areas of Lorain County.

Lorain County Farm Bureau is proud work with Lorain County Community College in their efforts to bring high speed internet access to rural Lorain County. High-speed Internet access will allow residents to access, education, health care, and information for their families and business.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred D. DiVencenzo
President
Lorain County Farm Bureau

FINDLAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

Office of the President

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

2. **Cloud Computing** – The OMMC positions The University of Findlay and the rest of Ohio for innovations that will be essential for future business competitiveness. These innovations emanate from the burgeoning growth of "cloud computing" (essentially shared services distributed through a common network) which is highly dependent on expanding

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

DeBow Freed
President, The University of Findlay

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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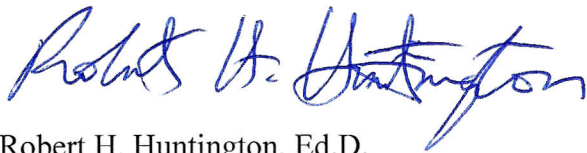
- Foster inter-campus sharing of resources among campuses, libraries, hospitals, and schools, including library collections and digital media which require higher bandwidth rates than what is now available or affordable.
- Connect local citizens to online courses and materials, including bandwidth-hungry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

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

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

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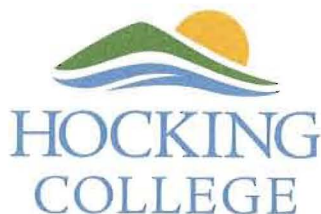
Best regards,

Robert H. Huntington, Ed.D.
President

RHH:km

Ron Erickson, Ph.D.

HOCKING
COLLEGE

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the president of Hocking College, a qualified anchor institution, I am writing to express
support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications submitted to your
agency's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive
Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment
Act.

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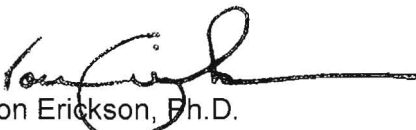education infrastructure.

Funding the OMMC applications will enable our institution to:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Ron Erickson, Ph.D.
College President

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As the Superintendent of Lorain County JVS, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC) applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NITA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

I understand that the OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:
- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse – An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

We are excited about the prospect that Lorain County JVS will be a sub-recipient to the OneCommunity portion of the consortium. We are especially enthused about the prospects that this project will have for the educational and economic development efforts throughout the county, particularly in the southern and less populated part of the county.

Lorain County JVS will be a sub-recipient of the OneCommunity application to help deploy middle mile broadband services to the major educational institutions in Lorain County, including the K-12 districts and LCCC. We will also work with other community education and training partners such as the County Extension Education Agency and the County Emergency Management Agency to ensure that these providers are also better equipped to provide the training programs so critical to their missions. This collaboration will enable LCJVS to provide additional and enhanced distance learning opportunities throughout the county.

This is especially important for a number of reasons. To meet the rapidly growing needs for 21st Century skills to compete in the new information-based economy, the workforce must upgrade educational levels and technology skills. Lorain County has also experienced tremendous job losses over the course of the last couple of decades and has never completely recovered from the past four recessionary periods. In January 2010, Lorain County had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 11%--the highest among all the counties in this economic development region. The counties to the near west, Huron and Erie, had unemployment rates of 18.3% and 14.2% respectively. To the south, Ashland County recorded a 14% rate. For these reasons, it is imperative that we extend the benefits of distance learning opportunities to the residents of these near-by areas. There is little or no broadband availability in the southern part of Lorain County, largely because the commercial providers have determined that the population is insufficient to justify a return on the investments needed for installation.
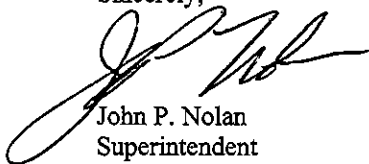
The OMMC project will extend and enhance LCJVS's ability to support broadband services for these crucial educational purposes by connecting more directly with the area's fourteen K-12 districts, the JVS will be better able to provide technology based training. It also provides a venue for our facility to work directly with K-12 faculty to deliver professional development activity. And finally, LCJVS has a long-standing relationship with LCCC and more recent collaboration with The Ohio State University Extension Services and Oberlin College to help provide training opportunities to the county's many small farmers and community gardeners, as part of an overall push to increase the availability of and use of local foods, especially for low-income families and children.

These are critical, non-commercial needs in the county and the proposed project will help the partnership meets more of the needs of the public sector. By supporting the public sector's mission, the project will also provide an infrastructure for the private sector to expand and grow. The most telling statistic about how important it is to meet individual needs through education is captured in the fact that, in 1980, 80% of all jobs were with employers of 500 or more; today, 80% are with employers of 10 or fewer. Small businesses are now the engines of the economy, and continuing, life-long education and training is the key to keeping those engines running.

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

On behalf of both our high school and adult education components the residents of Lorain County and the surrounding area, I am pleased LCJVS has the opportunity to partner with OMMC and OARnet to leverage the impact of broadband services in the Ohio.

Sincerely,

John P. Nolan
Superintendent

Lorain County Township Association (LCTA)
Rob Scheithauer, President
7685 West Ridge Rd., Elyria, Ohio 44035-1957
440-315-3844
robbarb1@windstream.net

March 20, 2010

Dr. Roy A. Church
President
Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road North, SP 205
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Dear Dr. Church:

As the president of the Lorain County Township Association, I am writing to express support for the College's participation in the state-wide "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

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

The OMMC collaboration and the participation of the College in it will greatly extend and enhance the existing partnerships between the College and the LCTA to continue to provide much needed educational and training services and supports to our constituencies. We fully recognize the need for the county's residents to have access to the high quality and affordable education in order to maintain, upgrade and learn new skills and technologies to get and stay competitive in the new global economy. This has always been important to the LCTA and it is especially critical in the current recessionary climate.

As you know, there is extremely limited broadband service in the southern parts of the county – the parts where residents have a number of geographic and scheduling barriers to traveling to the northern part of the county to attend courses or take a workshop at the main campus. The enhancement of distance learning opportunities for individual citizens as well as our collective safety forces will be a tremendous benefit to the economic vitality of the county.

We are pleased to hear that the State is facilitating the framework of the OMMC as a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. We look forward to the day when the OMMC-related

proposals will expand middle mile connection to counties currently unserved or underserved, including Lorain County.

The LCTA is pleased to be part of this partnership and we hope the reviewers find the proposal worthy of funding. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for including the LCTA in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert Scheithauer
President
Lorain County Township Association

Lake **E**rie **E**ducational **C**omputer **A**ssociation

1885 Lake Avenue • Elyria, Ohio 44035

Elyria (440) 324-3185
Lorain (440) 244-1659
Fax (440) 324-7355

Linking Education Everywhere Creating Achievement

March 24th, 2010

Roy A. Church
President
Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road North SP 203
Elyria, Ohio 44035

As the Executive Director of the Lake Erie Educational Computer Association I am writing to express support for the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" applications to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

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

We are excited about the prospect that Lorain County Community College will be a sub-recipient to the OneCommunity portion of the consortium. We are especially enthused about the prospects that this project will have for the educational and economic development efforts throughout the county, particularly in the southern and less populated part of the county.

The Lake Erie Educational Computer Association provides Internet access and a variety of application services to school districts in Lorain, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron and Medina counties:
- 25 Public Districts
- 73 Non-Public Districts
- 26 High Schools
- 30 Middle Schools
- 150 Elementary Schools
- Approximately 100,000 students

As we understand the OneCommunity / Lorain County Community College (LCCC) component of the project our data center, which currently has high-speed connections to all of the districts outlined above, would receive a high-speed broadband connection to the LCCC facility. This high-speed connection will allow the schools in our service area enhanced access to educational opportunities offered by LCCC and their various partners. Currently our connection to the LCCC campus is limited to the bandwidth of a single T1 line. This connection would also enhance our ability to provide high-speed access to the Internet via LCCC's existing data network.

We are happy that the state has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities, and through Lorain County Community College, to meet the educational needs of the county.

We are excited about the possibility and look forward to a favorable review. We will do whatever we can to make this a success for the county and the region.

The Lake Erie Educational Computer Association is pleased to be engaged with the OMMC to extend the impact of broadband services in the county.

Best regards,

Lloyd Wright
Executive Director
L.E.E.C.A.
440-324-3185 x1153
wright@leeca.org

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Michael T. Victor
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Kilcawley Hall
T 440.375.7200
T 800.533.4996
F 440.375.7204

391 West Washington Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077
T 440.296.1856
T 800.533.4996
F 440.375.7005

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor
institutions in our area, such as the City of Painesville, Lakeland Community College and
corporations such as Steris, Lincoln Electric and PCC Airfoils.

This will enable our institution to (for example):
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term
  economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic
  development

- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to education and healthcare facilities in Painesville
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to numerous high schools and libraries in the area.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in expanded access for residents and students to education and training, access to health care facilities, economic development, collaboration, new programs in previously unserved or underserved areas and new collaborative capabilities.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Michael T. Victor
President

LAKELAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lakeland Community College
Letter of Support

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

There is limited network/fiber connectivity between Lakeland's main campus located in Kirtland, Ohio to Lakeland's Madison, Ohio campus. The current T1 line connecting the two sites is based on older analog technology which negatively impacts growth, stability, and versatility. The proposed OMMC project will assist Lakeland by offering a more stable infrastructure, creating enhanced services, and planning for future growth, primarily at our Madison branch campus.

The first goal of the OMMC project in regards to Lakeland is to offer a more stable infrastructure to the community. For example, Lakeland runs an application that tests students in mathematics and science, for placement in the appropriate college level classes. The connection between the Main Campus and the Madison branch campus is extremely slow due to lack of fiber infrastructure in the surrounding area. Therefore, only one testing station can be running at a time. All other programs that run at Madison face similar network bottleneck issues including: Internet access, phones, video surveillance, medical coding, and nurse training.

The second goal is to offer enhanced services to the community. Since Lakeland is a public institution, community members and students use the facilities in order to perform research. In addition, Lakeland partners with other entities within Lake County. For example, security cameras at the Madison campus, although not specifically designed for this use, monitor the Laketran building across the street. Laketran is Lake County's bus system so this security impacts the community overall. Expanding the fiber infrastructure will allow Lakeland to offer more wireless services to visitors, while also allowing it to enhance our security position not only for Lakeland but that of Laketran.

The third goal of the OMMC project is future growth and expandability. This project will immediately impact our Madison campus, but will also allow for the addition or expansion of future Lakeland locations throughout Lake County. Expanding the fiber infrastructure will permit us to partner with other entities wanting to be connected to Lakeland for research, communication, or other community outreach programs. In addition increased bandwidth to the Madison area will also improve the students connections to our distance-learning platform. This infrastructure project will make the bandwidth available for all these types of initiatives.

Overall, by enhancing Lakeland's access, we are assisting the community and helping individuals train for jobs, and providing the environment for increased economic development. This project will allow Lakeland to continue to offer localized classes in our well-established nursing and health-related programs. This project will continue to help us bridge the technological divide by offering open access to computers for the community. In addition to helping Lakeland the community will be helped with additional bandwidth allowing for items such as remote area access to medical facilities by being connected through the fiber to other urban medical centers. Ultimately, the OMMC project is one in which Lakeland can assist the community in its future growth and development.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Rick Penny
Director for Administrative Technologies

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to:

- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development,
- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improve access to education and healthcare facilities throughout Washington County in Ohio, and
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to the 7 high schools, the Washington County Career Center, 6 public library locations, and numerous other public agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jean A. Scott
President

March 23, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jay A. Gershen, D.D.S., Ph.D.
President

— Dedicated to education, research and service —
The Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy partner with
The University of Akron, Kent State University, Youngstown State University, Cleveland State University,
22 hospitals/health systems, two health departments and associated community pharmacies.

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of the President

Higher Education Anchor Institution
Letter of Support

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects would extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, including Oberlin College and the city of Oberlin, Ohio.

Located in a central rural area of Lorain County, Ohio, and approximately 35 miles from the center of Cleveland, the city and College have long been recognized as a center of excellence. The College is known worldwide as a premier liberal arts institution, as is the world class Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Recent awards and appointments include the National Medal of the Arts (presented by President Obama on February 25, 2010) and designated membership in the Climate Positive Development Program, a program of the Clinton Climate Initiative.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in the augmentation and further growth of Oberlin's social, research, artistic and environmental endeavors, and bring enhanced access to our resources. Furthermore, establishment of Oberlin as an anchor site for Lorain County, Ohio, provides a critical infrastructure point for the rest of this rural area, thus promoting opportunities for enhanced access to economic, educational and healthcare benefits. We regularly provide technical leadership and visioning. For example, we have recently initiated a pilot project to provide gigabit broadband speeds to a few residential homes on the Oberlin campus. This model could be expanded throughout the Oberlin community.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Marvin Krislov
President

NORTHERN

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

March 23, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kendall L. Baker
President

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the Ohio Middle Mile
Consortium (OMMC) applications to the National Telecommunications
and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology
Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the Comprehensive Community
Infrastructure (CCI) category, under the American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Ohio University, a qualified anchor institution,
is pleased to partner with the OMMC to increase the positive effects of
broadband services in the Ohio.

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address
comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:
- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC),
  led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, led by Com Net in western
  Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio
  Middle Mile Consortium Project, led by OneCommunity in northeastern
  Ohio

The OMMC is a public private partnership spearheaded by the Ohio
Academic Resource Network [OARnet], the technology operations arm of
the University System of Ohio, which was chartered by Chancellor Eric

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions like Ohio University's five regional campuses and two satellite locations. These sites are hubs for economic development and research activities in the southeastern quadrant of the state of Ohio.

For example, the initiative will enable Ohio University to:
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure, providing long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development
- Bridge the technological divide, boosting economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs, and improving access to education and healthcare facilities in southeastern Ohio
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to numerous colleges, high schools, and libraries in the southeast Ohio region
- Greatly improve statewide efficiencies through shared technology services, expanded distance learning opportunities, and significantly increased research activities

Historically, the lack of broadband services has substantially limited these types of improvements to the region's economic development. OMCC middle mile connectivity will expand broadband availability and bring together the underserved areas of this largely rural region.

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

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding. Please let me know if I can provide further information or answer any questions you may have.

Cordially,

Roderick J. McDavis
President

Office of the President

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

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

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

E. Gordon Gee
President

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

The CAOMMC will extend these critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as the Ohio University main campus, the five (5) regional Ohio University campuses, and community colleges in the SE Ohio region.
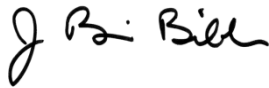
This will enable our institution to:
- Extend media-rich educational services to the region
- Consolidate critical services for delivery to under-served institutions
- Improve efficiency through shared IT service initiatives
- Allow all institutions to participate in national and international programs
- Support expansion of cost-effective broadband services to economic development initiatives through shared/local POPs
- Improve research competitiveness through expanded and configurable broadband capacity

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

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

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

Best regards,

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

Ohio
Wesleyan
University

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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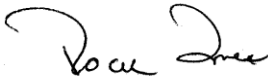stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across
Ohio.

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor
institutions in many areas of the state. In particular, we see the proposed increased investments through OMMC to advance and address community collaboration, services to underserved populations, and economic development, all of which are greatly needed in Ohio.

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

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

Sincerely,

Rock Jones, Ph.D.
President

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Middle Mile Consortium will provide economical Internet services to area school systems. Broadband Internet connections facilitates the partnership between Owens Community College and the school systems. These partnerships will result in achieving the Early College Credit and sophomores to seniors' goals of the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.
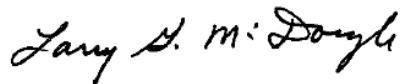
Owens has developed several excellent training programs with GROB and Cooper Tire and Rubber. Improving available broadband access to these industries will facilitate the training and college level courses that Owens conducts for these companies. With increased Internet connectivity, new course offerings would be offered. These courses would include distance education courses as well as management courses using Owens Internet based closed circuit TV system.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Larry S. McDougle

Larry McDougle, Ph.D.
Interim President

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical broadband services to other anchor institutions in our area, such as Hocking College in Nelsonville, Washington State Community College in Marietta and Shawnee State University in Portsmouth. Rio Grande has degree completion, cooperative, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs with these institutions.

This will enable our institutions to:
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long-term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development.

- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities to maintain and create jobs and improve access to education and health care facilities in Southeastern Ohio.
- Establish direct connectivity for Rio Grande's Allied Health Degree Programs to the Adena PACCAR Center and Holzer Health Systems, two of our regional health care facilities.
- Expand our activities with the Endeavor Center, a joint project between Rio Grande and The Ohio State University which provides rural economic and small business development initiatives and offers a vital incubation environment for our campus MBA Program in Entrepreneurship.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to our Meigs Center campus and the numerous elementary and high schools where Rio Grande's teacher education students are engaged in observation and classroom teaching field experiences.
- Increase capacity for our regional libraries and community computing centers which are flooded with patrons who have no residential broadband services available or are unable to afford access.

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

RH⊙DES

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in:

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Debra L. McCurdy
President, Rhodes State College

SANDUSKY COUNTY

Commissioners, **H**uman **R**esources, **R**isk **M**anagement

Board of Commissioners:
Dan Polter
John Rettig
Terry Thatcher

County Administrator:
Warren Brown
countyadministrator@co.sandusky.oh.us

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

We are writing to express our strong support for the OneCommunity/Connect Ohio project. As one of the largest employers in the county and have twenty-six buildings sprawled across the county.

Our area of NW Ohio has been hard hit by the nationwide tough economic times. Pursuant to news media outlets, Sandusky County had the dubious honor of holding the most Sheriff's Sales (foreclosures) in the state in 2009.

The ability to link all governmental/quasi governmental offices via fiber and offer possible access to the several thousands households currently not connected, would be key to making information about jobs and services more accessible.

Our vision for a connected collaborative effort with libraries and other public access facilities could be attained if funding is present.

We look forward to taking advantage of this opportunity should the use of fiber services become available, and hope that you will look favorably upon the bid as it provides significant benefits to our regional/local economic development prospects and the development of a 21st century infrastructure designed to provide substantial benefits to our citizenry.

On behalf of the Sandusky County Commissioners Dan Polter, Terry Thatcher and John Rettig, we remain,

Yours in good government,

Warren

Warren Brown
County Administrator

Shawnee State
UNIVERSITY

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

The OMMC includes three integrated applications which collectively address comprehensive middle mile services for Ohio. The OMCC projects include:
- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio
- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse-An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

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

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

Office of the President
www.shawnee.edu
740.351.3208 ▪ 740.351.3470 fax
940 Second Street ▪ Portsmouth, Ohio 45662-4344

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rita Rice Morris
President, Shawnee State University

Southern State Community College
Higher Education Anchor Institution
Letter of Support

March 22, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to:
- Increase investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long term economic benefits through workforce retraining, job creation and economic development.
- Bridge the technological divide, boost economic opportunities, and improve access to higher education and healthcare resources in our rural Appalachian area.
- Enhance and expand Internet connectivity to all of our five counties, four campuses, over 20 high schools, and numerous libraries in the area.

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Kevin Boys, Ed.D.
President

Stark County Office Building
110 Central Plaza South
Suite 220
Canton, OH 44702-1410
Phone 330-451-7357
Fax 330-451-7630

KIM **PEREZ**
Stark County Auditor
www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing on behalf of the people of Stark County, in conjunction with governmental and business entities, to express our strong support for OneCommunity's Middle Mile Project titled 'Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse, and Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project.' Partnering with organizations both in and out of Stark County, I have spearheaded the evaluation of broadband technology opportunities for the Stark County region. These efforts have been focused on determining the greatest benefits for economic, community and governmental institutions from the development of a Stark County Community fiber network with the objective of preserving and creating jobs, stimulating long-term economic development and increasing efficiency in local government.

The sites included within the OneCommunity proposal represent the overall scope of a county-wide fiber network for Stark County that would encourage initiatives for economic development, facilitate public and business access to government services, and provide a foundation for cost-saving collaborations that would reduce financial burdens for economically distressed local governments. Stark County's most critical areas of need include:

An affordable *county-wide* fiber network between Stark County's major government institutions to provide a foundation for improving government efficiency through collaborative technology initiatives.

An affordable *regional* fiber network between Stark County, and other Northeastern Ohio counties that includes the State of Ohio OIT, to support the mission of the Northeastern Ohio Local Government Information Consortium (NEO Logic). The objectives of NEO Logic include cost-saving state and governmental initiatives such as the consolidation of technology infrastructure and the implementation of viable business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

I. County-wide network:

The economic forecast for Stark County and its municipal governments is desperate. Stark County's unemployment rate is now 13.5% and City of Canton is at 14.8%. A portion of Stark County's sales tax has been repealed and a tax renewal due in 2011 looks bleak. County-City consolidations and collaborative efforts will be essential for the survival of current local government services, safety forces and preservation of government jobs. Recently, Forbes magazine listed Canton as the 9th of "America's Most Miserable Cities".

There are several initiatives in-progress and under evaluation within Stark County to consolidate city and county departments to improve government efficiency, reduce costs and provide better governmental services to local businesses and citizens. *The success of many of these efforts will be based on the ability to consolidate technology which requires affordable and accessible broadband connectivity.*

A good case can be made that efficient government is a powerful economic development tool. Governments with efficient business practices are less costly and easier to work with, making areas with efficient local governments more attractive to new business start-ups, business relocations, and economic development entities.

Many local governments with data centers are over-invested in technology infrastructure and under-invested in business applications that are the most critical to efficiency and productivity in business operations that provide efficient government. Via economies of scale, significant cost reductions could result from the consolidation of technology infrastructure such as hardware, software and licensing.

II. Regional network:

The regional network would support the vision of NEO Logic which is endorsed by the Northeastern Ohio County Auditor's Association. The primary objectives are focused on cost-savings for local and state government initiatives through technology infrastructure consolidation, sharing of technology resources, and the creation of a shared disaster recovery facility to support viable business continuity and disaster recovery plans. The regional network is centered upon improving government efficiency and reducing costs through the following collaborative technology initiatives:

Recognition of significant cost reductions via consolidation of technology infrastructure
Local governments are over-invested in hardware and infrastructure, and under-invested in business applications that are the most critical to the success of the agencies they support. Via economies of scale, significant cost reductions could result from the consolidation of technology infrastructure such as hardware, software and licensing.

Creation of a shared disaster recovery site for implementation of realistic business continuity plans
Many local governments do not have sufficient logistical plans for recovery and restoration of critical business applications in the event of an emergency due to the high cost of maintaining an alternate disaster recovery facilities and duplication of infrastructure.

Creation of a collaborative development of business value applications common to Ohio County Auditor's
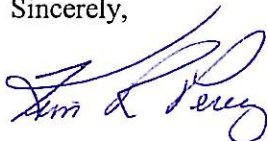The formation of joint intra-county development teams would leverage technical expertise, reduce development time-lines and improve continuity in data sharing between county agencies.

Establishment of a foundation for offering infrastructure as a service to technology underserved Ohio counties
Web-hosting, GIS deployment and Virtual Private Server environments could be established to provide remote applications to areas where technology services are cost-prohibitive.

We look forward to taking advantage of this opportunity. Our operations and success depend upon stretching every dollar, and the opportunity to obtain fiber to our county and subsidized pricing through the BTOP program will assist in collapsing costs while extending benefits, services and outreach. We urge you to support this innovative and collaborative partnership with OneCommunity and OarNET, the State of Ohio's Academic and Research Network as it provides the opportunity to obtain robust high speed connectivity at a price point that brings real benefits to Stark County.

Sincerely,

Kim R. Perez
Stark County Auditor
Chief Administrator, Stark County Information Technology Center

UNIVERSITY of DAYTON

March 18, 2010

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

Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

This will enable our institution to:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Curran, Ph.D.
President

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Luis M. Proenza
President

March 19, 2010

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

I am writing, Secretary Strickling . . .

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will provide and enhance middle- and last-mile Broadband
Services to education and government institutions in Northeast Ohio and throughout the State.

While enhancing our ability to continue to serve our current communities, this affordable
connectivity will enable The University of Akron to reach out to a broad base of younger
students, to un-served and underserved populations in our community, and to work

collaboratively with other public and private institutions. Specifically, the footprint of this much-needed broadband will enable us to:

- Extend our post-secondary offerings to all high schools to help students prepare for college and get a solid head start on their college coursework, an opportunity that will make them and the State more competitive in the workplace;
- Extend our distance learning and mobile learning to other community colleges which will enable more students to overcome geographic barriers by completing four-year degrees without the need to physically set foot on our campus;
- Share many of our technology services (i.e., telecommunications, document imaging, etc.) with government agencies which will result in improved service quality and reduced costs; and,
- Develop an innovative network of shared services that could ultimately benefit the State by creating greater efficiency and service while, at the same time, minimizing the strain on ever-tightening budgets.

Ultimately, the benefits of this extended broadband network will mean closer collaboration with other schools and institutions, a collaboration that will enhance not only The University of Akron, but our community and our State.

OARnet, the State's long distance network, has proven to be very reliable, affordable, and effective. To further leverage OARnet, we need to build more scalable and affordable middle-mile and last-mile connectivity throughout Ohio. This connectivity will provide broad access to all the resources available on our state-wide network today.
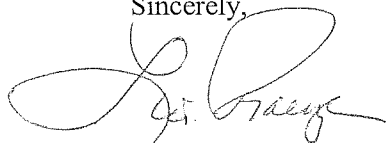
The OMMC has adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to meet the broadband needs of the state's public and private higher education entities. The OMMC-related proposals will collectively expand middle mile connection to 54 counties which, when combined with the 14 counties currently on the state network, represent 68 of Ohio's 88 counties.

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

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

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rosemary Haggett, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ursuline 🪷
College *Office of the President*
Values. Voice. Vision.

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed project will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to numerous
institutions in our area including the 26 higher educational institutions that are part of Northeast Ohio.
While Ursuline College draws most of its students from the Northeast Ohio region, the majority of the
graduates remain in this same region, thus being able to benefit from this project both while students and
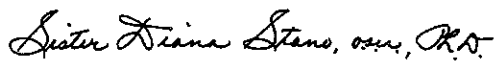once they enter the workforce.

Ursuline College serves a large population of first generation students, primarily women, and students with significant financial need. With the increased use of web-based courses and learning activities, this will provide additional access to students in the area.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Sister Diana Stano, O.S.U., Ph.D.
President

Charlotte R. Hatfield, Ph.D.
President

Monday, March 22, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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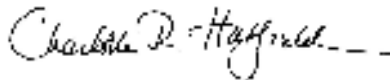
The OMMC proposed projects will enable Washington State Community College to reach more students and potential students in need of distance learning opportunities. Expanding distance learning offerings and opportunities is one of four, strategic initiatives for Washington State and is in direct support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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Charlotte Hatfield, Ph.D.

President

Washington State Community College

WILBERFORCE

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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Currently, OARnet provides an integrated technology infrastructure to 89 public and private higher education institutions plus their branch campuses, 7 urban centers and 23 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) which serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.
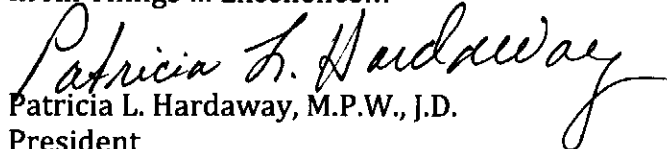
There is currently limited broadband service in Wilberforce which has negatively affected our ability to serve our students and the communities.

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

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

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

In All Things ... Excellence!!!

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

THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER

March 18, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

The OMMC proposed projects will extend and enhance critical Broadband Services to anchor institutions in our area, such as The College of Wooster and the Wooster City School District, as program and service collaborators with schools and not-for-profit organizations in more rural areas outside the City of Wooster where Broadband Services are limited by current telecommunications infrastructure.

The proposed projects will enable The College of Wooster to:

- Collaborate with elementary and secondary schools in educational programs and outreach activities through the College's own education program and student volunteer organizations;
- Extend our emerging social entrepreneurship efforts to assist non-profit service organizations in these areas;
- Provide opportunities for our students to use the enhanced connectivity to conduct research in these communities or with organizations within these communities; and
- Offer the wider community the opportunity to attend, via the Internet, our campus speaker series' or other major events that we plan to broadcast in the future.
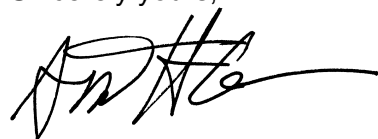
The College of Wooster is pleased to engage with the OMMC to leverage impact of broadband services in Ohio. We support efforts to create more opportunities for carrier competition in our area and to provide affordable access for senior citizens and families. Additionally, the College would benefit from the availability of alternative service providers and redundant infrastructure, which are essential to keep our Internet communications operable during times of outage of our primary service.

We anticipate that implementation of OMMC projects will result in expanded access for elementary and secondary faculty and students to resources available through The College of Wooster and expanded opportunities for the College's students, faculty, and staff to collaborate with individuals and organizations in previously unserved or underserved areas.

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

We understand that implementation of this project is contingent upon award of NTIA-BTOP funding, and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Grant H. Cornwell
President

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

David R. Hopkins

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

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

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

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC)-led by Horizon Telcom in southeastern Ohio

- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium-led by Com Net in western Ohio

- Transforming NE Ohio: From Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse - An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project-led by OneCommunity in northeastern Ohio

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

serve K-12, 9 public broadcasting stations, as well as various hospitals, and state and local government agencies across Ohio.

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

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

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

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

Best regards,

Paul R. Brown, Ed.D.

Bob Gibbs
22nd State Senate District

Senate Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614/466-7505
E-mail: SD22@senate.state.oh.us

Committees:
Chair, Ways and Means and Economic Development
Vice Chair, Agriculture
Education
Environment and Natural Resources
Highways and Transportation

August 7, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

FROM: State Senator Bob Gibbs

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL
FOR THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

As state senator for the 22nd District, I am pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and Lightspeed Wireless to bring broadband from urban communities into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce of tomorrow through job creation. These benefits include the capacity for:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

Serving: Holmes, Medina, Wayne & part of Ashland Counties

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations   through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

As a partner in broadband deployment, OneCommunity offers a unique perspective on economic development challenges, operating with open neutrality in bringing together diverse stakeholders to address common objectives and provide a sustainable model for broadband network deployment.

The Big Broadband Project will impact our local efforts and communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding my support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly at 614-466-7505

Sincerely,

Bob Gibbs
State Senator
22nd Senate District

Deborah Newcomb

State Representative, 99th House District

Committees:
Aging & Disability Services, Chair
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Health
Public Utilities

August 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the broadband stimulus application submitted by the Conneaut Telephone Company for federal assistance in funding broadband expansion projects in Ashtabula County. The Conneaut Telephone Company is located in Conneaut, Ohio and serves a diverse community of rural and urban areas. The company's current projects, to extend and compliment existing digital routes, would be greatly enhanced through funding opportunities made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

These particular projects aim at creating a "middle-mile" fiber-optic network, extending the current route the Conneaut Telephone Company is constructing. This expansion will ultimately reduce wholesale costs, provide broadband services to each industrial and business park, and breakdown internet access barriers in each city or village within Ashtabula County. In addition, the Conneaut Telephone Company is also planning to create a "last-mile"connection to homes and businesses, offering a new fiber-to-the-home network and allowing competitive outreach amongst homes with high-speed internet access.

Not only will the projected initiatives by the Conneaut Telephone Company develop and expand broadband service in urban and under-served areas, the construction of a broadband infrastructure in Ashtabula County will also promote local economic development through job creation and improved communication outlets.

As a long-serving local business, I strongly value the dedication provided by the Conneaut Telephone Company to surrounding communities. When partnered with the broadband stimulus funding, the company's current efforts will only continue contributing to the betterment of Ashtabula County and the lives of its residents.

I appreciate your careful consideration and encourage you to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH NEWCOMB
State Representative
99th House District

Capitol:
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-1405
(614) 719-6999 (fax)
(800) 282-0253 (toll free)

www.house.state.oh.us
District99@ohr.state.oh.us

District:
Ashtabula and Parts of
Trumbull Counties
392 Residence Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
(440) 593-5366

Unified Position Resolution

Endorsing OneCommunity's ARRA Proposal for "The Big Broadband Project"

June 18th, 2009

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association (NEOM&CMA) represents more then 150 communities within the 16 counties that make-up Northeastern Ohio (Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Mahoning, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne counties); and,

WHEREAS, the Mayors and City Managers of the NEOM&CMA support the mission of using our collective resources to marshal our experience to further the common interests of our communities to benefit the entire region of Northeast Ohio and its residents; and,

WHEREAS, The Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association endorses the proposal for "The Big Broadband Project" submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is a public-private partnership between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northeastern Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, "The Big Broadband Project's" fiber/wireless deployment will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to schools and universities, hospitals and clinics, cities, villages and townships, and expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to the 4.1 million people living and working throughout Northeastern Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, Northeast Ohio continues to face substantial challenges in re-tooling for 21st century economic development. This "Big Broadband Project" will bring with it opportunities for advanced economic development and business attraction, and our workforce will have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related services and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for Northeast Ohio. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and,

WHEREAS, OneCommunity's "Big Broadband Project" will bring with it significant public benefit, dramatically improving how our government, health, business, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include, but are not limited to:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government, business, and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide; and,

WHEREAS, OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate Northeast Ohio's needed broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves many schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits; and,

WHEREAS, The Big Broadband Project will significantly benefit our local efforts and our communities. In addition, thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across Northeastern Ohio will be able to access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge the approval of OneCommunity's proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That on this 18th day of June 2009 the Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association does hereby submit this Unified Position Resolution endorsing OneCommunity's ARRA proposal for "The Big Broadband Project" and urge all to support our collective position; and,

This Unified Position Resolution was developed as a result of a unanimous vote of the attending members at the June 18th, 2009 general membership meeting, according to the By-Laws, of the Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association.

William A. Currin
Mayor, City of Hudson
Chairman, NEOM&CMA
Phone: 330.554.3529
Fax: 330.656.1585
E-Mail: WACurrin@Hudson.OH.US
Website: www.hudson.oh.us

COUNTY OF ASHLAND

110 COTTAGE STREET
ASHLAND, OHIO 44805

TELEPHONE 419/289-0000 EXT. 4220
FAX 419/281-6939

DATE: May 21, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
         The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
         The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
         THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT

Ashland County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Ashland County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. The Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
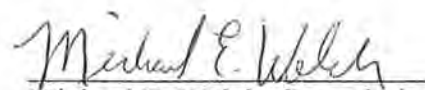
OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs. The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local communities in important ways. Thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential. Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kim Edwards, Commissioner   Barb Queer, Commissioner   Michael E. Welch, Commissioner

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KIM EDWARDS, PRESIDENT
BARB QUEER, VICE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL E. WELCH
    GAIL CROSSEN, CLERK

COUNTY OF ASHLAND

110 COTTAGE STREET
ASHLAND, OHIO 44805

TELEPHONE 419/289-0000 EXT. 4220
FAX 419/281-6939

DATE: May 4th, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
             The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
             The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL
             FOR THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Ashland County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio, especially in Ashland County.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people. Ashland County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development.

The Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs.

The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.

In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local communities, including Ashland County, in many important ways. Thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jeff Beebe
Information Technology Manager
Ashland County, Ohio
jeff@ashlandcounty.org
419-282-4258

Ashland *Area Council for Economic Development*

206 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805
Telephone: 419-289-3200, Fax: 419-289-3233,
Email: economicdevelopment@ashland-ohio.com www.AshlandED.com

DATE: May 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Ashland Area Council for Economic Development (AACED) is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Ashland County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. The Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs.

The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will

saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.

In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local communities in important ways. Thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Evan Scurti
Director

Ashtabula County Commissioners
Joe Moroski
Daniel R. Claypool
Peggy Carlo

25 W. Jefferson Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1092
(440) 576-3750
Fax: (440) 576-2344

DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Ashtabula County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and

interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Peggy Carlo
President

Joe Moroski
Commissioner

Daniel R. Claypool
Commissioner

Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners
Gary Miller
Mo Ressallat
Douglas J. Weisenauer

112 E. Mansfield Street
Suite 304
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

Telephone: 419-562-5876
Fax: 419-562-3491
www.crawford-co.org

Administrative Assistant
Julie L. Bell
Clerk
Barbara A. Leuthold

May 7, 2009

RECEIVED MAY 0 8 2009

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Crawford County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Crawford County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller, President   Mo Ressallat, Vice President   Douglas J. Weisenauer, Member

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CRAWFORD COUNTY, OHIO

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Phone: 419-627-7672   Fax 419-627-7692

Michael J. Bixler, Administrator   Carolyn L. Hauenstein, Clerk of Board

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr.
Tferrell@erie-county-ohio.net

William J. Monaghan
Bmonaghan@erie-county-ohio.net

Patrick J. Shenigo
Pshenigo@erie-county-ohio.net

DATE: May 14, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
             The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
             The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL**
             FOR THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT

Erie County, Ohio is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The County supports this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into Erie County government, non-profit (i.e. hospitals) and rural/underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment (adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber) will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Erie County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This has the potential to result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Big Broadband for Northern Ohio leverages a prior $11.2 million award for rural broadband from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for health care. It has been conveyed to both the County Administrator and Information Technology Director that OneCommunity will bear the responsibility of securing additional matching funds required in support of the total stimulus grant. No dollars will be required by the taxpayers of Erie County.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through probable job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.
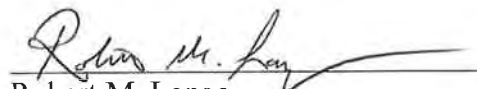
OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project by OneCommunity in Erie County will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able to access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus Grant dollars support is essential toward the project moving forward.
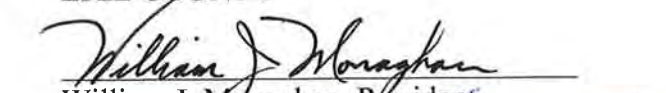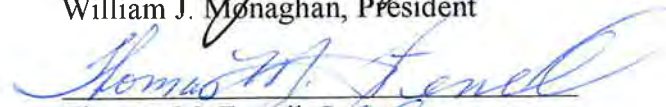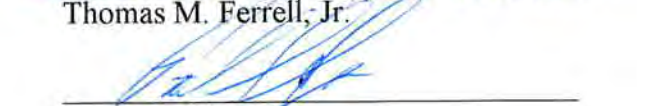
Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bixler
County Administrator

Robert M. Lange
Information Technology Director

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William J. Monaghan, President

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr.

Patrick J. Shenigo

c: U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur
Senator Mark Wagoner
Representative Dennis Murray
File

ltr/OneCommunity ARRA Proposal/dl

CITY OF GALION
301 Harding Way East ● Galion, OH 44833-2087
Voice (419) 468-1680 ● Fax (419) 468-7620
www.ci.galion.oh.us

April 31, 2009

Cheryl Joseph Williams
OneCommunity
800 W. St. Clair, Second Floor
Cleveland, OH 44113

Press Pass to: **The National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: Endorsement of OneCommunity's ARRA Proposal for The Big Broadband Project

Dear Ms. Williams:

The City of Galion is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project
submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private
partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband
into rural and underserved areas of Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband
fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities,
hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded
broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million
households and over 5 million people.

The City of Galion faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic
development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it expanded opportunities for
economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities
to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in additional
jobs, higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant
build-out cannot occur without the essential financial resources made available through the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit,
drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and
interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include,
but are not limited to:

● **E-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government,**
elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence; and,

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts as well as those in surrounding communities and rural areas, significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support and/or our wholehearted endorsement of OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. OLES
City Manager

Cc: Brad McMillen, NW Field Director, ConnectOhio

Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board
Department of Information Technology
Frank J. Gliha, Chief Administrator
Steve Decatur, Chief Technology Officer
Courthouse Annex, 231 Main Street, Suite 1A, Chardon, OH 44024-1293

(440) 285-2222, 834-1856, 564-7131 Ext. 1888
Direct Line: (440) 279-1888 FAX: (440) 279-1315

Web site: http://www.auditor.co.geauga.oh.us
Email: sdecatur@co.geauga.oh.us

DATE: June 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL OR THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Geauga County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.
Geauga County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. The Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and potentially increasing our community development via workforce opportunities through job creation of higher-paying jobs.
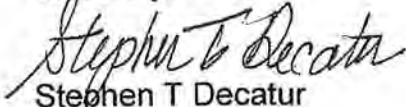
The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.

In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

Proudly serving the residents of Geauga County

The Big Broadband Project will help our local communities in important ways. Thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Stephen T Decatur
Chief Technology Officer
Geauga County

Huron County Development Council

180 Milan Avenue
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Phone: 419-663-4232
Fax: 419-663-4233
www.hcdc.net

DATE: July 14, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
          The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
          The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
          THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Huron County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Huron County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. Broadband will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will provide significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs.

The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.

In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

T. Alex Beres
Executive Director
Huron County Development Council

HURON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Adelman* Gary W. Bauer* Larry Silcox

Cheryl Nolan, Administrator/Clerk

May 14, 2009

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT

Huron County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.
The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 31 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.
Huron County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. Broadband will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will provide significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs.

The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the Big Broadband Project will insure that the return on investment is high. This project will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.
In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.
The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and millions of underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.
Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1195
419-668-3092 * 800-808-5092 * Fax: 419-663-3370
Email: main@hccommissioners.com
www.hccommissioners.com

DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
            The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
            The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
            THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Mahoning County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

One Community's Big Broadband Project will assist Mahoning County's own efforts in bringing regional savings, collaboration, and greater efficiencies through advanced communications. The Mahoning/Youngstown Regional Information System (MYRIS) views the ongoing directed expansion of OneCommunity's fiber footprint to be particularly advantageous in assisting our local/regional efforts with the 'long-haul' network that would bring connectivity to other economic/political regions and connectivity to the state capitol where the final reporting takes place. MYRIS is the greater Mahoning County's 1st non-school effort to regionalize certain logical IT services, including access to critical information to assist law enforcement agencies within the participating political subdivisions, general IT support and disaster recovery to the group. Mahoning County is a part of the federal Appalachian district.

Mahoning County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. There are substantial internal developments in Mahoning County that would greatly benefit by this proposal. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a

significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:
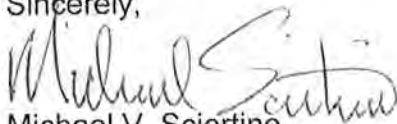
- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.
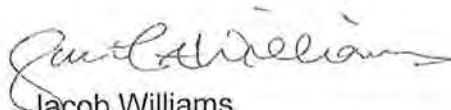
OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Sciortino
Mahoning County Auditor

Jacob Williams
Mahoning County IT Director

MAYFIELD VILLAGE

6622 Wilson Mills Road   Mayfield Village, OH 44143

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
440.461.2210 · FAX 440.461.7349
ContactUs@mayfieldvillage.com · mayfieldvillage.com

Bruce G. Rinker
Mayor

May 5, 2009

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **Endorsement of OneCommunity's ARRA Proposal for the Big Broadband Project**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Mayfield Village is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Our region faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our counties. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.
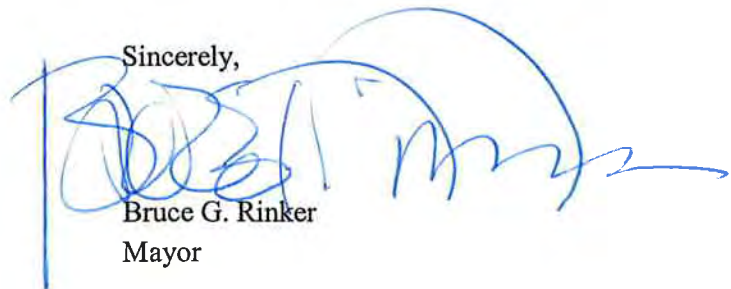
In 2008, Mayfield Village formed a partnership with OneCommunity. Through this partnership, Mayfield Village is installing a $330,000 high-speed broadband fiber cable to service businesses in the 200-acre Beta Park Commercial District. Beta Park is one of three County Innovation Zones ("CIZ") targeted by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners. Beachwood and Cleveland's Midtown Corridor are the other two. The CIZ program is an ambitious commitment to sustainable economic development that maximizes the benefits we can gain from a true public/private partnership promoting knowledge-based industry that has become the growth plate of commerce.

Mayfield Village tested the waters by investing $50,000 toward extending this high-speed broadband service to one facility on Beta Drive. That investment has seen a significant return, through income tax revenues, in just three years. If the return on this investment is any indicator, we look to a healthier, dramatically revitalized Beta Park that will attract tech-based business and industry that demands high-speed broadband service, received at a fraction of the typical cost. Our long-term goal is to create a truly mixed-use Beta Park, which will serve as a new and vital lifestyle center for Mayfield Village.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should you have any questions regarding Mayfield Village's support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bruce G. Rinker
Mayor

Medina County Commissioners

Patricia G. Geissman
Stephen D. Hambley
Sharon A. Ray

County Administration Building
144 North Broadway
Medina, Ohio 44256

(330) 722-9208
(330) 225-7100
(330) 336-6657

Fax: (330) 722-9206

RECEIVED MAY 0 7 2009

DATE: May 4, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
        The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
        The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR THE
        BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Medina County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Medina County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;
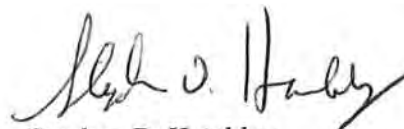
- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.
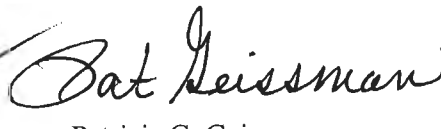
OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Medina County Commissioners

Stephen D. Hambley
President

Patricia G. Geissman

Sharon A. Ray

![Medina County Ohio Economic Development Corporation logo]

RECEIVED MAY 0 7 2009

DATE: May 5, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
            The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
            The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR**
            THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Medina County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), I am pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Like many communities, Medina County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. In conjunction with the Medina County Port Authority and local private sector leaders, MCEDC has been working on one solution for almost a decade: the expansion of broadband in Medina County. We are extremely gratified that we have been able to partner with OneCommunity on this project, which will connect to a much larger regional network through the Big Broadband Project.

This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

144 N. Broadway, Medina, Ohio 44256 • (330) 722-9215 • (330) 722-9295 • Fax: (330) 764-8449
web: www.medinacounty.org • email: mcedc@medinacounty.org

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 330-722-9215.

Sincerely,

Bethany Dentler, CEcD
Executive Director
Medina County Economic Development Corporation

RECEIVED MAY 0 7 2009

DATE: May 6, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
            The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
            The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
            THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

The Medina County Port Authority is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Medina County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. To deal with these challenges, the Port Authority has been partnering with OneCommunity to construct a fiber optic ring throughout our county, with connections into Akron and Cleveland and to the entire Big Broadband Project footprint proposed by OneCommunity.

We believe that this Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ron Paydo, Chair
Medina County Port Authority

Information Technology Services

Brian D. Kelley
CIO

Brenda Cumpston
Manager

Janet Esposito
Administrator

DATE: May 8, 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
          The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
          The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
          THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Portage County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Portage County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

WWW.CO.PORTAGE.OH.US
449 South-Meridian Street * P.O. Box 1217 * Ravenna, Ohio 44266-1217 * (330) 297-3584 (p) * (330) 298-3949 (f) * (800) 772-3799 (toll free)
An Equal Opportunity Employer

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.
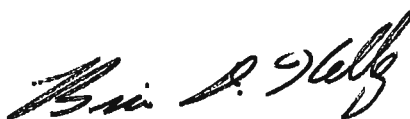
The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Janet Esposito
Portage County Auditor

Brian Kelley
Portage County Chief Information Officer

KIM PEREZ

Stark County Auditor

www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us

Stark County Office Building
110 Central Plaza South
Suite 220
Canton, OH 44702-1410
Phone 330-451-7357
Fax 330-451-7630

DATE: May 8,2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
          The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
          The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
          THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Stark County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Stark County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and

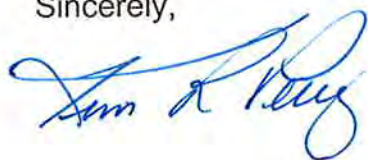interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kim R. Perez
Stark County Auditor

JOHN A. DONOFRIO
Fiscal Officer
County of Summit

DATE: May 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
          The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
          The USDA Rural Utilities Service

RE: **ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

Summit County is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

Summit County faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:

- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.
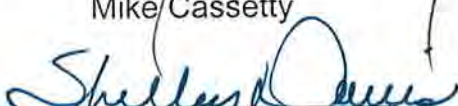
The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.
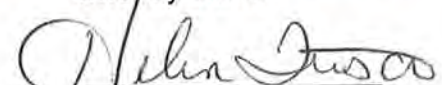
Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.
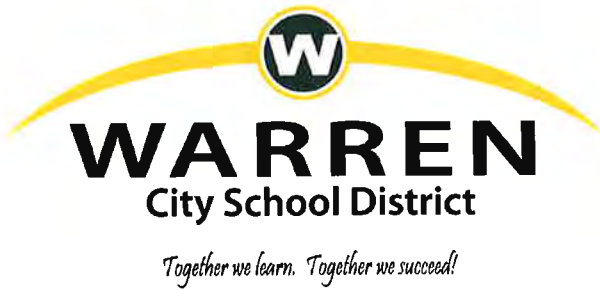
Sincerely,

John A. Donofrio

Mike Cassetty

Shelley Davis

Helen Fusco

WARREN
City School District

Together we learn. Together we succeed!

DATE: May 2009

TO: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
          The USDA Rural Utilities Service
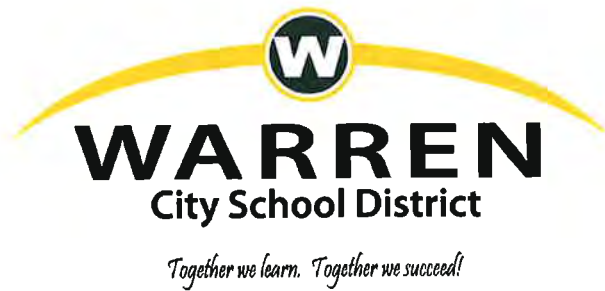   The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

RE: OneCommunity's ARRA Proposal for The Big Broadband Project for Northern
          Ohio

The Warren City Schools is pleased to join others in endorsing the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This network expansion will bring broadband services into underserved areas of Northern Ohio, including urban and rural areas of Trumbull County.

The Big Broadband Project's deployment of fiber and wireless will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have much-needed opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This significant build-out cannot occur without the financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC grant, the project will insure that the return on investment is high as it will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs. Over 2,000 schools and universities, more than 1,000 cities and villages, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, and over 5 million people will be able to receive ultra high-speed broadband and access low-cost, high-capacity services.

Together we learn. Together we succeed!

In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Sincerely,

Mark Leiby
Executive Director Technology,
State and Federal Programs

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN
MAYOR JAY WILLIAMS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL • 26 S. PHELPS STREET • YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503
PHONE: (330) 742-8701 • FAX: (330) 743-1335

May 1, 2009

RECEIVED MAY 0 8 2009

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The USDA Rural Utilities Service

**RE: ENDORSEMENT OF ONECOMMUNITY'S ARRA PROPOSAL FOR
THE BIG BROADBAND PROJECT**

The City of Youngstown is pleased to endorse the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We support this network expansion that is the result of public-private partnerships between OneCommunity and local broadband providers to bring broadband into rural and underserved areas of Northern Ohio.

The Big Broadband Project's fiber/wireless deployment, adding 1,300 miles of broadband fiber, will bring ultra-high-speed broadband to over 2,000 schools and universities, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, 30 counties, and over 1,000 cities and villages. Expanded broadband services will be provided through community partners to over 1.8 million households and over 5 million people.

The City of Youngstown faces substantial challenges in re-tooling for healthy economic development. This Big Broadband Project will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This will result in higher-paying jobs and higher average incomes for our county. Such a significant build-out cannot occur, however, without the essential financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will bring with it significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation. These benefits include:
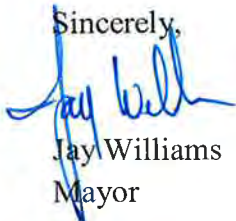
- e-Government and the ability to interconnect to state, county, and city government, elevate public service delivery, and make government more cost-effective;

- 21st century learning environments that leverage digital learning tools, rich content, and distance learning capabilities;

- Improved and advanced healthcare services and access to health care excellence;

- Ultra broadband access and improved services for underserved populations through upgraded hospital, government and school capabilities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

OneCommunity is uniquely poised to facilitate broadband capacity and services. In addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access.

The Big Broadband Project will benefit our local efforts and our communities significantly. In addition, thousands of businesses and over 2 million underserved citizens across northern Ohio will be able access low-cost, high-capacity broadband services. We urge your approval of this proposal for which Stimulus support is essential.

Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jay Williams
Mayor

The Board of County Commissioners, Trumbull County, Ohio, met in Regular Session on the 28th of May, 2009, in the office of said Board with the following members present:

Frank S. Fuda, Commissioner
Paul E. Heltzel, Commissioner
Daniel E. Polivka, Commissioner

* *

RE: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT
        ACT PROPOSAL FOR BIG BROADBAND PROJECT

MOTION: Made by Mr. Heltzel, seconded by Mr. Polivka, to adopt the following Resolution to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration – the USDA Rural Utilities Service—the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners joins others in endorsing the proposal for the Big Broadband Project submitted by OneCommunity for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This network expansion will bring broadband services into underserved areas of Northern Ohio, including urban and rural areas of Trumbull County; and

WHEREAS, the Big Broadband Project's deployment of fiber and wireless will bring with it opportunities for economic development and business attraction, and our workforce can have much-needed opportunities to be trained for broadband-related service and industries. This significant build-out cannot occur without the financial resources made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the location and timing are optimal. By leveraging an $11.2 million FCC Grant, the project will insure that the return on investment is high as it will saturate 31 strategic counties with the communications technology that enables them to compete in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, OneCommunity's Big Broadband Project will have significant public benefit, drastically improving how our government, health, and education systems operate and interact today, and increasing our workforce through job creation of higher-paying jobs. Over 2,000 schools and universities, more than 1,000 cities and villages, hundreds of hospitals and clinics, and over five (5) million people will be able to receive ultra high-speed broadband and access low-cost, high-capacity services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to expertise, OneCommunity already has a fiber-optic network that successfully serves more than 1,000 schools, hospitals, libraries, governments, and nonprofits, and has a proven track record in providing access; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners supports OneCommunity's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Proposal for the Big Broadband Project for Trumbull County and Northern Ohio.

Roll Call resulted as follows:

Paul E. Heltzel, Yea
Daniel E. Polivka, Yea
Frank S. Fuda, Yea

Adopted: May 28, 2009

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

Frank Fuda
FRANK S. FUDA, PRESIDENT

Paul E Heltzel
PAUL E. HELTZEL, COMMISSIONER

Daniel Polivka
DANIEL E. POLIVKA, COMMISSIONER

Arthur Mutual

TELEPHONE

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

Dear Mr. Berelsman:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Eric W. Roughton
General Manager