May 3, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

Expanded broadband capability has the potential to open new avenues of communication and education to Idaho’s largely rural communities. These broadband funding grant opportunities, if awarded, would allow Idaho communities to move forward in this important technological effort. After a careful review, I have found there to be many proposed projects with great potential to benefit the Idaho regions most in need of this opportunity.

I appreciate your thorough consideration of these proposed projects, and I encourage you to consider my attached comments about each grant application. I look forward to the awards decision, and please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance in this process.

As Always – Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”

C. L. “Butch” Otter
Governor of Idaho
State of Idaho: BTOP Round Two Comments

Applicant
AMMON, CITY OF
AMMON, ID

Application ID
4456

Contact
Bruce Patterson
bpatterson@ci.ammon.id.us

Project title
Ammon Fiber Optic Network

Program
BTOP

Proposed Project Area
ID

Project type
Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Funding Round
Round 2 - Winter 2010

Grant request
$ 6,514,985

Status
Application Received

Description
This project is a middle mile community fiber project that will serve anchor institutions in Ammon at speeds and prices currently unavailable.

State of Idaho Comments
The State of Idaho Highly Recommends approval of the Ammon Fiber Optic Network project. This project has been reviewed and compared to similar non-BTOP projects that have been deployed in other Idaho communities such as Moscow and Gooding. The creation of a city sponsored and maintained fiber network to facilitate broadband access to key anchor institutions, business and community members is a proven strategy that stimulates economic growth, facilitates the availability of broadband access to community members and increases the safety and efficiencies of emergency services and community government.

Applicant
IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES
BOISE, ID

Application ID
6743

Contact
Ann Joslin
ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov

Project title
High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries

Program
BTOP

Proposed Project Area ID

Project type
Public Computer Center

Funding Round
Round 2 - Winter 2010

Grant request
$ 1,907,531

State of Idaho Comments
The State of Idaho Highly Recommends approval of the High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries project. This project has been reviewed in detail and the positive impacts on the
communities addressed will be significant. This project targets the highest need and least served of all of Idaho’s rural communities. Without approval of the project the ability for local communities to receive the library sponsored benefits, available to most other communities, will not happen in the foreseeable future. The cooperation with other public, private and anchor institutions that have been secured by the Idaho Commission for Libraries ensures the success and sustainability of this project.

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<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>NEZ PERCE TRIBE</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAPWAI, ID</td>
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<td>Application ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Christina St Germaine</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:chriss@nezperce.org">chriss@nezperce.org</a></td>
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State of Idaho Comments
The State of Idaho Highly Recommends approval of the Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project. This project has been reviewed in detail and the positive impacts on the communities and residents of the Nez Perce Reservation will be significant. This project targets the highest need and least served of all of Idaho’s rural communities. Without approval of the project the ability for residents, businesses, emergency services, schools and governing agencies to have access to usable levels of bandwidth, that is available to most other communities, will not happen in the foreseeable future. The cooperation with other public, private and anchor institutions that have been secured by the Nez Perce Tribe ensures the success and sustainability of this project.