



# Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Business Council Members  
Colley Billie, Chairman

MAY 11 2010

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman  
Max Billie, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary  
William M. Osceola, Lawmaker

April 26, 2010

United States Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
Washington, DC 20230

ATTN: Mr. Ian Martinez

Dear Mr. Martinez:

ACTION OFFICE Law  
COPIES TO \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE DATE 5/24/2010  
REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTROL# 3039

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida received the letter from NTIA concerning the second round of funding for grants so that the Tribe could provide input on those geographic areas that NTIA should give priority in your selection of projects for funding. My staff reviewed these proposals and offer the following comments:

There are only 3 applications from entities within the State of Florida. All other applications are from entities out of state. While these other applicants are deserving of consideration, they do not specifically address our needs. Therefore, our discussion will focus on only those applicants from the State of Florida.

The Florida Smartnet application is for a middle mile project partnership to link higher education institutions and public broadcasting stations. This application appeals to education and public broadcasting for educational benefit while promising to provide last mile access to the under served. This application promises to provide jobs, training, etc. While this is admirable, no one contacted the Miccosukee Tribe for our input. Therefore, it is difficult for us to see how this will directly benefit the Tribe and our needs.

The USF Polytechnic application is to link 15 USF Polytechnic anchor points in 4 counties. The Miccosukee Tribe has one reservation in Highlands County. No one lives there. It is hard to see how this would benefit the Tribe.

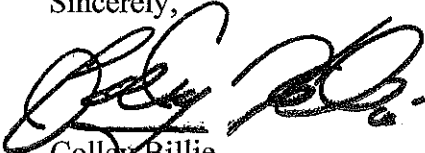
The FPL Fibernet and Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition: Digital Partnership for Tomorrow application is to provide middle mile and last mile services. This group actually came and met with the Tribe. They are willing to provide us with the broadband service that we need at our Alligator Alley Reservation in Broward County as well as our Reservations in Miami-Dade County. There is no broadband service for our Tribal members at the Alligator Alley

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Reservation at this time other than through wireless service. Due to our active thunderstorms during rainy season, this service is sketchy at best. Fiber optic lines to this Reservation will provide the access and service that we need. Therefore, the Miccosukee Tribe endorses this application as it will provide the broadband service that is not now available to Tribal Members and Tribal Government.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these applications. Please contact Mr. Steve Terry of my staff at the number listed on the previous page or via e-mail at [Stevet@miccosukeetribe.com](mailto:Stevet@miccosukeetribe.com).

Sincerely,



Colley Billie  
Tribal Chairman

PC: Steve Terry, Land Resources Manager