May 14, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce
HCHB, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

On behalf of the Quinault Indian Nation, we are pleased to provide our input on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant applications that impact our lands.

We note that our first and top priority is the Quinault Indian Nation’s own Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) application entitled “Quinault Indian Nation Broadband Initiative for Safer Communities and Sustainable Economic Growth”. The Quinault project is a last mile project that will reach 75% of our households.

As it relates to the BTOP program we give our highest recommendation for BTOP Grant Funding to Native Broadband Satellite (Application ID #4468). Native Broadband’s affordable middle mile option will complement our BIP last mile focused project by providing an additional backhaul option. Native Broadband will also enable us to reach additional areas that our BIP project cannot efficiently serve.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Fawn R. Sharp
President