



PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

March 18, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe:

Please consider this letter our endorsement of the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute) and ERC Broadband.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Henderson County is a significant one. Through MCNC and ERC Broadband, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County and region. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC, the Kenan Institute, and ERC Broadband are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Henderson County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Henderson County. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute, MCNC, and ERC Broadband.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Tate
President & CEO



HENDERSON COUNTY

1 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SUITE 2 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 698-5000 • Fax (828) 698-6014 • www.hendersoncountync.org

Steve Wyatt
County Manager

Selena Coffey
Assistant County Manager

March 16, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso

I am pleased to represent Henderson County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Kenan Institute. Further, we are pleased to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Henderson County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Henderson County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC. Thank you for your consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Wyatt", is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Wyatt,
County Manager, Henderson County

Resolution
Broadband Access in Un-served and Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Hertford County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in un-served and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

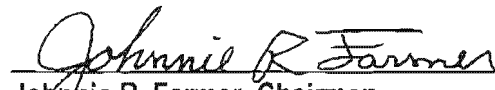
WHEREAS, Hertford County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementations of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that Hertford applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the un-served and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as its highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its un-served and underserved communities.

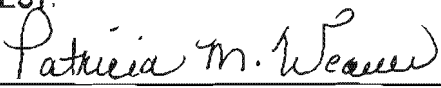
Adopted this the 1st day of March 2010.

HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Johnnie R. Farmer, Chairman

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Weaver, Clerk to the Board



TELEPHONE
252-358-7805

Hertford County

P.O. Box 116
Winton, NC 27986

March 1, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
President/CEO
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

On behalf of the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, we are pleased to endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute). I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Hertford County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Hertford County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
March 1, 2010
Page 2

This initiative is particularly important to Hertford County. Our local poverty rate stands at 18.3%. Our personal income is 62% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loria D. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Loria" being more prominent.

Loria D. Williams
Hertford County Manager

**RESOLUTION OF THE HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN SUPPORT OF BROADBAND ACCESS IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED
AREAS WITHIN NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES**

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Hyde recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Hyde seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Hyde applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Hyde that the said Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

ADOPTED, this the 15th day of February, 2010.

By:



Tom Davis, Chairman

Hyde County Board of Commissioners


Attest:


Lois Stotesberry, Clerk to Board

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held in the Hyde County Government Center on Monday, March 15, 2010. The same appears in Minute Book No. 18 at page _____.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lois Stilesberg", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Hyde County

COUNTY OF HYDE

Board of Commissioners

Tom Davis, Chair
Barry Swindell, Vice-chair
Gene Ballance
Anson Byrd
Sharon Spencer

30 Oyster Creek Road

PO Box 188

SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885

252-926-4400

252-926-3701 Fax

Carl Classen
County Manager

Sid Hassell
County Attorney

Lols Statesberry
Executive Assistant to Manager
Clerk to the Board



February 26, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Hyde County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Hyde County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Hyde County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Hyde County. Our unemployment rate stands at 15.9% well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 39 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Davis', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tom Davis, Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

attachments – (a) NCRBI Broadband Development – February 24, 2010
(b) NCRBI Factsheet – February 18, 2010

cc (w/attachments): Commissioners

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BRIAN THOMAS McMAHAN, Chairman
TOM L. MASSIE, Vice Chairman
JOE COWAN, Commissioner
MARK R. JONES, Commissioner
WILLIAM R. SHELTON JR., Commissioner

KENNETH L. WESTMORELAND, County Manager
401 GRINDSTAFF COVE ROAD
SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA 28779
(828) 631-2295
FAX (828) 631-2208
E-Mail: JacksonCoMgr@jacksonnc.org

March 22, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP NC 27709

Dear Joe:

I am please to represent the citizens of Jackson County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute). (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Jackson County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Jackson County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Jackson County. Our unemployment rate stands at 9.5%, well above the state and national average. Our average household income is \$52,029, much below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Westmoreland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line above the last name.

Kenneth L. Westmoreland
County Manager

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Southern Base of the Research Triangle Region

March 23, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the Lee County Economic Development Corporation representing Lee County, the City of Sanford and the Town of Broadway in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Lee County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

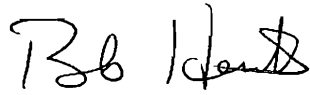
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Lee County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Lee County. Our unemployment rate stands at 14.6%, well above the state and national average. Our median household income is \$49,375, below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative

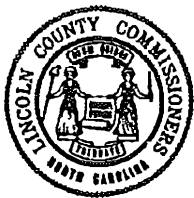
includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Heuts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Heuts" clearly distinguishable.

Bob Heuts, Director
Lee County EDC



COUNTY OF LINCOLN, NORTH CAROLINA

115 WEST MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR CITIZENS CENTER, LINCOLNTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28092

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER
GEORGE A. WOOD, COUNTY MANAGER
704-736-8471 PHONE
704-736-8820 FAX

March 22, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Lincoln County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Lincoln County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Lincoln County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to

reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Lincoln County. Our unemployment rate stands at 13%, well above the state and national average. Our average household income is below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George A. Wood
County Manager



Madison County Administration

PO Box 579
Marshall, NC 28753
(828) 649-2854
www.madisoncountync.org

March 24, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso, President & CEO
MCNC
PO Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Madison County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, Microelectronics of North Carolina (MCNC), and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute) and ERC Broadband. It is our intent to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, it is my understanding that MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Madison County is a significant one. Through MCNC, NCREN and ERC Broadband the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC, the Kenan Institute and ERC Broadband are working with French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) and other private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Madison County. My understanding is that FBEMC and other private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to rural Madison County. Our unemployment rate stands at 11.2%, just slightly below the state average. Our average household income is \$38,389, much below the national average of \$53,684 and the state average of \$50,465. Enhanced access to broadband has proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am

March 24, 2010

pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application. I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Garrison", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Steven W. Garrison
County Manager

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RONNIE SMITH, CHAIRMAN
ELMO "BUTCH" LILLEY, VICE CHAIRMAN
C. MORT HURST
TOMMY W. BOWEN
DEREK PRICE



W. RUSSELL OVERMAN
COUNTY MANAGER

MARION B. THOMPSON
CLERK TO THE BOARD

P.O. BOX 668
WILLIAMSTON, NC 27892
(252) 789-4300
FAX (252) 789-4309
e-mail: martin@martincountync.gov.com

March 8, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Martin County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Martin County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Martin County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Martin County. Our unemployment rate stands at 11%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 26.60 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Russell Overman
Russell Overman
County Manager
Martin County

Proposed Resolution
Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

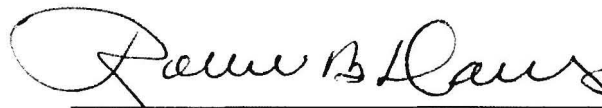
WHEREAS, Nash County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Nash County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Nash County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Nash County Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

Adopted this 8th day of March 2010.



Robbie B. Davis, Chairman
Nash County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Wayne Moore, Clerk to the Board

Nash County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROBBIE B. DAVIS
CHAIRMAN

FRED BELFIELDO, JR.
BILLY MORGAN
J. WAYNE OUTLAW
LOU M. RICHARDSON
DANNY TYSON
MARY P. WELLS



ROBERT M. MURPHY
COUNTY MANAGER
bob.murphy@nashcountync.gov

VINCE DURHAM
ATTORNEY
vdurham@bws.com

WAYNE MOORE
CLERK TO BOARD
wayne.moore@nashcountync.gov

March 1, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Nash County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Nash County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions

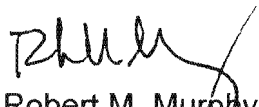
in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Nash County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Nash County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.4%, well above the state average of 10.6% and national average of 9.7% (source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics via Google unemployment rate US NC Nash County for December 2009). Our per capita income is 87% of the national average (source: Quickfacts from the US Census Bureau: \$21,587 US; \$20,307 NC; \$18,863 Nash County). Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Murphy
County Manager



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER
230 GOVERNMENT CENTER DR STE 195
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1732
TELEPHONE (910) 798-7184
FAX (910) 798-7277

BRUCE T. SHELL, CPA
County Manager

ANDRE' R. MALLETTE
Assistant County Manager

CHRIS COUDRIET
Assistant County Manager

March 17, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of New Hanover County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for New Hanover County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our county. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several community colleges, libraries, K12 schools, public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

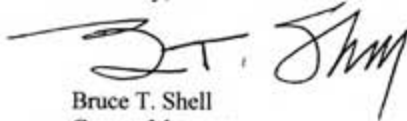
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle-mile to consumers and small businesses in New Hanover County. The private providers will leverage the middle-mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

March 17, 2010
Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
Page two

This initiative is particularly important to New Hanover County. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. T. Shell", is written over the typed name.

Bruce T. Shell
County Manager

Northampton County

"A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE FAMILIES, PROFITS AND EXPECTATIONS"

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P. O. BOX 808

JACKSON, N. C. 27845

PHONE (252) 534-2501 • FAX (252) 534-1166

Resolution For Broadband Access In Unserved And Underserved Areas Within North Carolina Counties

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

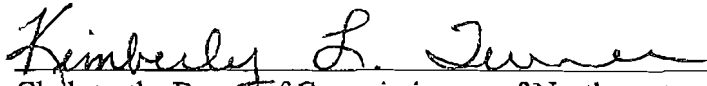
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Northampton County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Northampton County Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the State of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Northampton County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room on Monday, March 15, 2010. The same appears in Minute Book No. 20 at page 57-2010.

Signature:


Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County

(County Seal)

March 22, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

The Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development group and the Committee of 100 is pleased to endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The benefit of the NCRBI for Onslow County would be a tremendous opportunity. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will significantly increase the bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Onslow County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses. We firmly believe that this enhanced access to broadband has the potential to increase our economic prosperity, educational attainment and improve health care options around the world. I am very pleased that the NC Rural Broadband project has included Onslow County. During these

March 22, 2010

- 2 -

Mr. Joseph Freddoso

extremely tight budgetary times, we are grateful for the funding initiative proved by the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Best of luck with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Reichardt", written in a cursive style.

Jim Reichardt
Executive Director
Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development

March 2, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Pasquotank County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Pasquotank County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Pasquotank County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Pasquotank County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.1%, well above the state and national average. Our per capita income is \$21,927, also below the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and

enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Stamper". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Stamper" clearly legible.

Julie Stamper
GIS Coordinator
Pasquotank County

COMMISSIONERS

Marshall H. Stevenson, Jr., Chairman
Jloyd E. Griffin III, Vice Chairman
Matt Wood
Bill Trueblood
Cecil Perry
Jeff Dixon



COUNTY MANAGER
Randy Keaton

ASST COUNTY MANAGER
Rodney Bunch

COUNTY ATTORNEY
R. Michael Cox

CLERK TO THE BOARD
Karen Jennings

COUNTY OF PASQUOTANK

Post Office Box 39
Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27907-0039
(252)335-0865
Fax (252)335-0866

March 1, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Pasquotank County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operation of NCREC, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Pasquotank County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several community colleges, libraries, K12 schools, public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

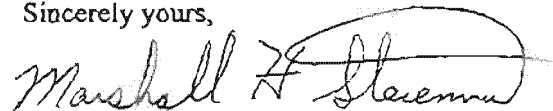
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Pasquotank County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
March 1, 2010
Page Two

This initiative is particularly important to Pasquotank County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.1%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 67.7% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marshall H. Stevenson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marshall H. Stevenson, Chairman
Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

MHS/ksj



March 5, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709
Dear Joe,

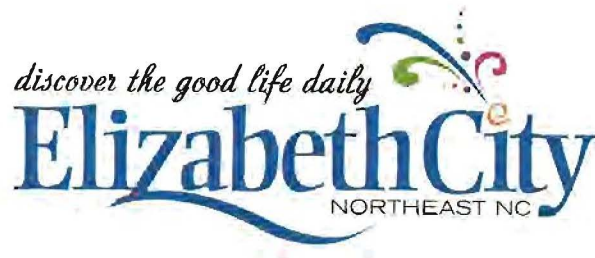
Enclosed are three letters of support for NCREN from the Mayor of Elizabeth City, the Director of the Elizabeth City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and my organization, the Albemarle Economic Development Commission. Albemarle Health, Pasquotank County, Elizabeth City State University, the College of the Albemarle and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools have sent their letters of support directly to you.

Thanks for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Harris", is written over a horizontal line.

Wayne Harris
Albemarle Economic Development Commission
Work: 252.338.0169
Cell: 252.619.3689
www.discoverec.com



March 2, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

RE: Support for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
submitted by MCNC

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our area where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our region to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina. Affordable access to such a network, at parity with urban and metropolitan areas, would offer tremendous advantages in our economic recruitment of New Economy businesses whose operations depend upon high reliability and high capacity electronic communications and information networks.

Broadband is a tool that our current and future employers require to remain competitive in the 21st Century global economy. Broadband also is vital to our efforts to serve existing businesses and allow them to modernize and expand. Availability of advanced broadband is a key success factor in our efforts to recruit new jobs to our area, as well as to expand our educational and workforce development efforts to ensure that workers have the skills necessary to compete in today's job market.

Albemarle Economic Development Commission

405 East Main Street • Suite 4 • PO Box 70 • Elizabeth City, NC 27907

252-338-0169 (ph) • 252-338-0160 (fx) • 1-888-338-1678 (tf) • info@DiscoverEC.com • www.DiscoverEC.com

Over the years many local businesses and non-profit organizations have experienced delays of weeks and even months in obtaining reliable broadband, and often these delays have occurred in areas with the most promising economic development prospects. In the Pasquotank Commerce Park, for example, it took Elizabeth City Glass, an innovative recycling company with intense broadband needs both for marketing and corporate communications, more than seven months to obtain DSL service. In micropolitan areas like the Elizabeth City area, with just a few broadband providers that control access to the Internet backbone, there is simply no motivation for these providers to provide prompt broadband service. Businesses like Elizabeth City Glass must make do with dial-up until these providers decide there is sufficient density in the area to create an acceptable rate of return on an investment in new switches or cabling.

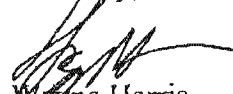
Companies that do have broadband complain of poor transmission quality. In the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Aviation Research and Development Park, DRS Technologies, the Park's major tenant, already has created 240 high-paying jobs here and has major plans for expansion that will require a geometric increase in bandwidth. Yet even at current transmission loads, DRS reports frequent problems with "packet loss" in attempting to transmit data to its clients and corporate partners.

As with DRS, the success and quality of customer service provided by our emergency management system, our regional hospital, Albemarle Health, Elizabeth City State University's soon-be-constructed School of Aviation Science and the College of the Albemarle's Air Frame and Power Plant ("A&P") training facility all depend on affordable and reliable broadband.

As in many rural areas of the country, small businesses play a large role in our area economy. Many small businesses are home-based and, as such, are particularly dependent upon access to advanced broadband services to reach customer markets, suppliers, and sources of information and expertise.

I hope that you will approve the NCREN application to help our efforts to support our businesses, retain and create new jobs and expand opportunities for our citizens.

Sincerely,



Wayne Harris
Director

MAYOR
ROGER A. McLEAN
MAYOR PRO-TEAM
ANITA HUMMER
CITY MANAGER
RICHARD C. OLSON
CITY CLERK
DIANNE PIERCE-TAMPLEN, MMC



CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
JEAN M. BAKER
MICHAEL E. BROOKS
RICKEY E. KING
LENA HILL-LAWRENCE
BETTY S. MEGGS
JOSEPH A. STIMATZ
JOHNNIE B. WALTON

CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY

February 25, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso, President and CEO
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Elizabeth City in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Elizabeth City is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Elizabeth City. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso

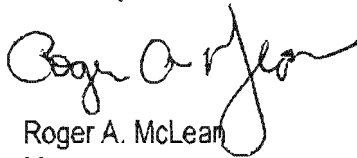
February 25, 2010

Page 2

This initiative is particularly important to Elizabeth City. Our unemployment rate stands at 9.8%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 67 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger A. McLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

Roger A. McLean
Mayor



March 5, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the businesses of Elizabeth City, Pasquotank and Camden Counties in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Pasquotank and Camden Counties is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Pasquotank and Camden Counties. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

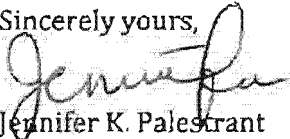
This initiative is particularly important to Pasquotank and Camden Counties. Our unemployment rate stands at 11%, well above the state and national average. Our personal

income is 76 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

With Best Wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer K. Palestrant".

Jennifer K. Palestrant
President



Elizabeth City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

March 1, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe:

On behalf of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Tourism Development Authority, I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in Pasquotank county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Pasquotank County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Pasquotank County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

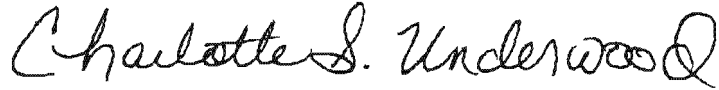
Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Tourism Development Authority

400 South Water Street • Suite 101 • PO Box 573 • Elizabeth City, NC 27907 • 866-324-8948 [toll-free] • 252-335-5330 [ph]
252-335-1733 [fx] • info@discoverelizabethcity.com • www.discoverelizabethcity.com

I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes Pasquotank County. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

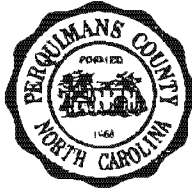
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte S. Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and a long, sweeping "Q" at the end.

Charlotte S. Underwood
Director

CSU/sdh

cc: Arthur McPherson
Chairperson - ECPCTDA



PERQUIMANS COUNTY

Economic Development

Post Office Box 45
Hertford, NC 27944

Tel: (252) 312-5314
Fax: (252) 426-4034

February 24, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am writing to express my support for the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program [BTOP] being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute [Kenan Institute].

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Perquimans County is a significant one. As the Perquimans County Economic Development Consultant, I understand that affordable and reliable access to advanced broadband services is a tool that our current and future employers require to remain competitive in the 21st Century global economy. Broadband is vital to Perquimans County's efforts to serve existing businesses and allow them to modernize and expand. Furthermore, availability of advanced broadband is a key success factor in the County's efforts to recruit new jobs to our area, as well as to expand our educational and workforce development efforts to ensure that workers have the skills necessary to compete in today's job market.

As in many rural areas throughout the United States, small businesses play a large role in Perquimans County's economy. Many small businesses are home-based and, as such, are particularly dependent upon access to advanced broadband

services to reach customer markets, suppliers, and sources of information and expertise.

In particular, the application requests funding for a network expansion to create a high capacity, highly reliable fiber-optic communications network connecting the area to major metropolitan centers. Affordable access to such a network, at parity with urban and metropolitan areas, would offer tremendous advantages in terms of economic recruitment of New Economy businesses -- whose operations depend upon high reliability and high capacity electronic communications and information networks.

The current severe economic recession has more adversely affected rural, sparsely populated communities. Approximately 70% of our residents out-commute to work. When the price of gasoline approached historically high levels last year, it became even more difficult and costly to out commute. One of the County's economic development strategies is to support the expansion of area telecommunications infrastructure and interconnections to major metropolitan trading centers, substituting speed of broadband connectivity for geographic proximity. This would allow our residents and businesses to electronically work and conduct business within these trading centers from within their homes or local businesses. The proposed network expansion and creation of a redundant network is tightly linked to the success of that strategy.

I am pleased that the North Carolina Broadband Initiative includes Perquimans County. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the County to undertake such a project without the help of MCNC and the Kenan Institute.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration. I wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David N. Goss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

David N. Goss

Perquimans County Economic Development Consultant



MARY P. HUNNICUTT
CLERK TO BOARD

BOBBY C. DARDEN
COUNTY MANAGER

PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 45
HERTFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27944
TELEPHONE: 1-252-426-7550

MACK E. NIXON
CHAIRMAN

TAMMY MILLER-WHITE
VICE CHAIR

BENJAMIN C. HOBBS

CHARLES H. WARD

SUE WEIMAR

M. SHIRLEY WIGGINS

W. HACKNEY HIGH, JR.
COUNTY ATTORNEY

March 1, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Perquimans County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Perquimans County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Perquimans County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

Page Two
March 1, 2010
Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso

This initiative is particularly important to Perquimans County. Our unemployment rate stands at 9.9%, which is above the national average. Our personal income is 75% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mack E. Nixon", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mack E. Nixon, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners



PERSON COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Person County Office Building, Room 212
304 South Morgan Street
Roxboro, North Carolina 27573-5245
(336) 597-1720
FAX (336) 599-1609

March 8, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Person County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Person County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Person County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

Page Two
March 8, 2010
Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC

This initiative is particularly important to Person County. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi N York", written in a cursive style.

Heidi N. York
Person County Manager



**PITT COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**

1717 W. 5TH STREET
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 27834-1696
TELEPHONE: (252) 902-2950 FAX: (252) 830-6311

D. Scott Elliott
County Manager

March 2, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Pitt County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Pitt County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Pitt County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Pitt County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.1%. Our personal income is 80% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband

has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Scott Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." followed by "Scott" and "Elliott".

D. Scott Elliott
County Manager

Cc: Mike Taylor, Deputy County Manager/Chief Information Officer

DM#80500

March 11, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Robeson County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Robeson County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Robeson County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Robeson County. Our unemployment rate stands at 11.6%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 67 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options

across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.



Charles Gregory Cummings
Director, Economic Development
Robeson County



Rockingham County

Governmental Center

371 NC 65, Suite 206 • P.O. Box 206

Wentworth, N.C. 27375-0206

Telephone: (336) 342-8101 • Fax: (336) 342-8105

Thomas B. Robinson
County Manager

February 26, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso, President and CEO
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Rockingham County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute). I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution (CAI) sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

MCNC's application will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the commercial Internet. In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Rockingham County.

This is especially important for Rockingham County, which is applying to the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) for Last Mile broadband. Our Last Mile application would provide 99% of residents and businesses within Rockingham County access to broadband speeds of 3 Mbps utilizing WiMax technology. MCNC's Middle Mile backbone would be extremely advantageous to our WiMax Last Mile solution by providing fiber access to WiMax towers along MCNC's proposed CAI route. Together, MCNC's Middle Mile and our Last Mile applications have tremendous potential to improve the economic vitality of Rockingham County.

Our unemployment rate stands at 12.6%, and our 2007 poverty rate is 15.1%, both well above state and national averages. I am pleased that MCNC's North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county so that these numbers will improve.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TBR", followed by a horizontal line.

Thomas B. Robinson

County Commissioners

Brent Washburn, *Chairman*
Margaret Helton, *Vice Chairman*
Susan G. Crowe
Eddie Holland
Paul McIntosh



John W. Condrey, *County Manager*
Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*
Elizabeth Miller, *County Attorney*

Rutherford County

March 18, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Rutherford County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Rutherford County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Rutherford County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses. Rutherford County has worked with a local private non-profit, PANGAEA, to secure Golden LEAF funds to construct 100

miles of fiber in the county. We believe this existing network when used in conjunction with this additional fiber that might come about by this initiative will further enhance the county broadband capability. Foothills Connect Business & Technology Center was established in 2005 to support the development and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurship in Rutherford County in order for the community to prosper in the global economy. The possibility of additional fiber could support their goal of a partnership providing support and access to a network of services and resources in a creative, engaging environment.

This initiative is particularly important to Rutherford County. Our unemployment rate stands at 16.9, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 75.9 % of the national average. Many teachers and students do not have access to any connectivity beyond dial-up and satellite service. To prepare students for the skills needed in a global economy, Rutherford County employees and students need to be connected when not at school. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,



John W. Condrey
Rutherford County Manager



Proposed Resolution
Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas within
North Carolina Counties

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Rutherford County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the said Rutherford County Economic Development Commission requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

Unanimously Adopted This the 17th Day of March, 2010.

Keven McCammon
Chairman
Rutherford County Economic Development Commission



Kevin Patterson
County Manager

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

County of Scotland

507 West Covington Street
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352
Telephone: (910) 277-2406
Fax: (910) 277-2411
www.scotlandcounty.org



Board of Commissioners
J.D. Willis, Chairman
Betty Blue Gholston, Vice Chair
John T. Alford
Bob Davis
Guy McCook
Joyce McDow
Clarence McPhatizer II

March 2, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Scotland County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Scotland County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Scotland County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Scotland County. Our unemployment rate stands at 17.1% and our per capita income is \$16,388, both well below the state and national averages. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hallisey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

County Manager
Scotland County



County of Scotland

507 West Covington Street
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352
Telephone: (910) 277-2406
Fax: (910) 277-2411
www.scotlandcounty.org



Kevin Patterson
County Manager

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Board of Commissioners
J.D. Willis, Chairman
Betty Blue Gholston, Vice Chair
John T. Alford
Bob Davis
Guy McCook
Joyce McDow
Clarence McPhatter II

March 4, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

The Scotland County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of its residents, endorses the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) set for submission by the North Carolina non-profit MCNC and supported by the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute at the University of North Carolina.

The Board of Commissioners would like to be considered as a direct connect customer of the Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites.

The application, designated the North Carolina Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our County to a statewide K20 education intranet and the commercial internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity for the North Carolina Broadband Initiative for Scotland County is significant as it will increase the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in Scotland County. Since the Initiative involves plans to connect several community colleges, libraries, K12 schools and public health and safety facilities in our region to direct fiber, these institutions will have opportunity to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

MCNC and the Kenan Institute also are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to small businesses in Scotland County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass the savings onto consumers and small businesses.

The initiative is particularly important to Scotland County since its unemployment rate stands at 17 percent, well above the State and national average. The County's personal income is \$31,000, below the national average of \$41,000. Enhance access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe.

I am grateful that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our County. There is no funding available, outside of the initiative, for the County to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC. Thank you for your consideration. We wish you success with this important application.

Sincerely,

J.D. Willis, Chairman
Scotland County Board of Commissioners

STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Post Office Box 20 • Danbury, North Carolina 27016 • Phone (336) 593-2448 • Fax (336) 593-2346

March 9, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso, President and CEO
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Stokes County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute). I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

MCNC's application will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the commercial internet. In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Stokes County.

This is especially important for Stokes County, which is applying to the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) for Last Mile broadband. Our Last Mile application would provide 97% of residents and businesses within Stokes County access to broadband speeds of 3 Mbps, utilizing WiMax Technology. MCNC's Middle Mile backbone would be extremely advantageous to our WiMax Last Mile solution by providing fiber access to WiMax towers along MCNC's proposed CAI route. Together, MCNC's Middle Mile and our Last Mile applications have tremendous potential to improve the economic vitality of Stokes County.

Stokes County has an unemployment rate that stands at 10.5%, and our poverty rate is 14.9%, both well above the national average. Our median income is 82 % of the national average. I am pleased that the MCNC's North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Walker".

Jimmy Walker, Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

Proposed Resolution
Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Stokes County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Stokes County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability and this application, if approved will greatly enhance our Last Mile USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Initiative Program (BIP) initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Stokes County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Stokes County , the said Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on March 8, 2010 in the Commissioners' Chambers located in the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Darlene M. Bullins", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County

(County Seal)

PAUL JOHNSON
Chairman
East District

JIMMY MILLER
Vice-Chairman
Mount Airy District

BILL HAMLIN
Central District

DR. JIM HARRELL, JR.
South District

CRAIG HUNTER
Mount Airy District



DENNIS THOMPSON
County Manager

EDWIN M. WOLTZ
County Attorney

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Surry County Government Center
118 Hamby Road, Suite 329
Dobson, NC 27017

March 15, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

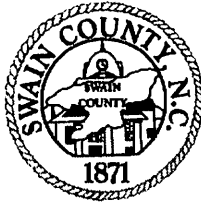
Professional staff at the University of North Carolina's School of Government has requested that I endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Program being submitted by MCNC, and supported by the University's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute.

To the extent that the work contemplated under the application can be of benefit in extending broadband coverage in Surry County, I am pleased to endorse the application. Anything that can be done to improve the economy of Surry County, one of the State's highest unemployment rate counties, is worthy of County support.

I look forward to learning more about the services that can be extended to Surry County under the program.

Sincerely,


Dennis Thompson
County Manager



Board of Commissioners
Glenn Jones, Chair
Genevieve Lindsay, Vice-Chair
David Monteith, Member
Steve Moon, Member
Phil Carson, Member

Swain County

101 Mitchell Street
P.O. Box 2321
Bryson City, NC 28713

County Manager
Kevin S. King

Telephone: (828) 488-9273
(828) 488-2600
Fax: (828) 488-2754
manager@swaincounty.org

March 23, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Swain County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Swain County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Swain County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Swain County. Our unemployment rate stands at 18.1%, well above the state and national average. Our average household income is \$28,608, much below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan

Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

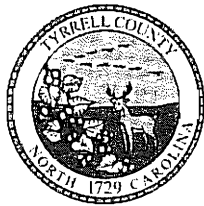
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Jones
Chairman,
Swain County Commissioners
Swain County

Tyrrell County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 449
Columbia, North Carolina 27925
Telephone (252) 796-1371

Anthony (Tony) F. Sawyer, Chairman
Gordon A. Deaver, Jr., Vice Chairman
Thomas W. Spruill



Larry G. Hill
J. Fred Swain
Penny Rhodes Jones, Clerk

March 9, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, North Carolina 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

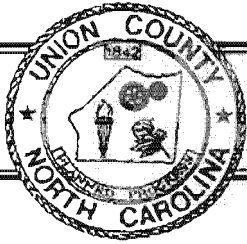
As the Tyrrell County Manager, I am writing on behalf of the Tyrrell County Board of Commissioners to offer their strong support of the Broadband Improvement and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grants Application submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

We are excited and committed about the possibility of having high speed internet access throughout Tyrrell County. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our county. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several libraries, K12 schools Public Health and safety facilities in our county to direct fiber; helping stabilize costs. Counties like Tyrrell, rural in nature and a high poverty level, would not be given the opportunity/possibility to receive affordable high speed internet without the Kenan Institute's efforts. The availability of this service is critical in providing a quality education for our young people and the recruitment of business.

We look forward to working with the MCNC and the Kenan Institute in making this technological opportunity a reality. Please notify us of the process which Tyrrell County must go through to ensure our participation in the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

W. Mack Carawan, Jr.
County Administration



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704) 283-3810 • Fax (704) 282-0121

February 24, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Union County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

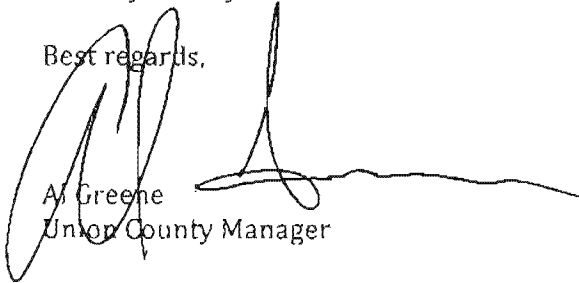
The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Union County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Union County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Union County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.50%, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Greene', followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Al Greene
Union County Manager

Vance County Board of Commissioners
Vance County Administration Building
122 Young Street, Suite B
Henderson, N.C. 27536

Jeffrey L. Ayscue
County Manager

Telephone (252) 738-2001
Fax (252) 738-2039



Kelly H. Grissom
Clerk to Board

Telephone (252) 738-2001

March 4, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

I am pleased to inform you that Vance County endorses the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute). We will consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our County where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our County to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

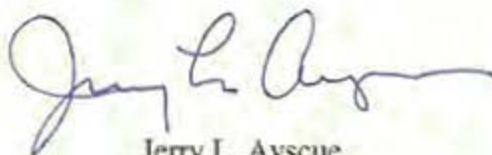
The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Vance County is significant. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our County to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable and reasonable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Vance County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Vance County as our unemployment rate stands at 14.1%, well above the state and national averages. Vance County is a Tier 1 County, which means we are a severely distressed area financially. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our County. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the County to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry L. Ayscue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerry L. Ayscue
County Manager



Office of the County Manager

Post Office Box 550 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

TEL 919 856 6160
FAX 919 856 6168

March 23, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Wake County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Wake County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Wake County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

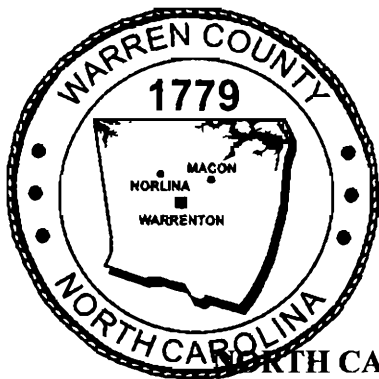
This initiative is particularly important to Wake County. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cooke".

David Cooke
County Manager



WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

105 SOUTH FRONT STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 619
WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27589

WARREN COUNTY

Barry Richardson, Chairman
Ulysses S. Ross, Vice Chairman
Ernest Fleming
William Davis
Jennifer Jordan

Linda T. Worth
County Manager

Angelena Kearney-Dunlap
Clerk to the Board

RESOLUTION BROADBAND ACCESS IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS WITHIN NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

PURPOSE: To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Warren County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

WHEREAS, Warren County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

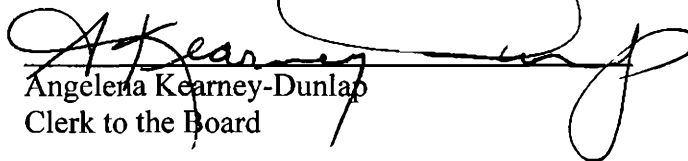
Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Warren County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications,

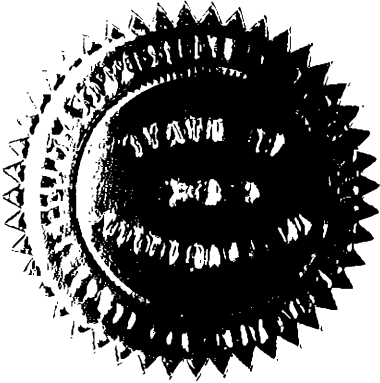
products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Warren County Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the State of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.


Barry Richardson, Chairman

ATTEST:

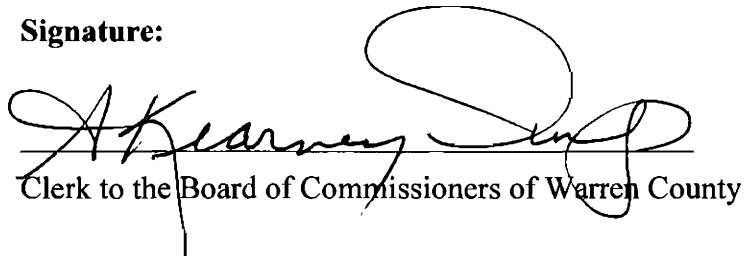

Angelena Kearney-Dunlap
Clerk to the Board



CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Warren County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held in the Warren County Memorial Library on March 1, 2010. The same appears in Minute Book No. 10 at page ____.

Signature:


Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Warren County

(County Seal)

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS:

TRACEY A. JOHNSON, CHAIRPERSON
JEAN D. ALEXANDER, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
BILLY COREY
RAYMOND R. MCCRAY
C. E. "BUSTER" MANNING, JR.



POST OFFICE BOX 1007
PLYMOUTH, NORTH CAROLINA 27962
OFFICE (252) 793-5823 FAX (252) 793-1183

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
DAVID L. PEOPLES
COUNTY MANAGER

JULIE J. BENNETT
CLERK TO THE BOARD
jbenett@washconc.org

CHERYL R. YOUNG
ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER
COUNTY ATTORNEY

March 15, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe:

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Washington County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Washington County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
March 15, 2010
Page 2

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Washington County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Washington County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.8 percent, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

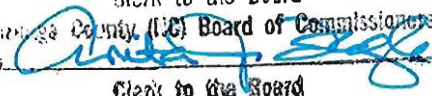
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. L. Peoples".

David L. Peoples
County Manager

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WATAUGA

A TRUE COPY
Clerk to the Board
Watauga County (NC) Board of Commissioners
By 
Clerk to the Board

**Resolution In Support of
Broadband Access in Unserved and
Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties**

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas within North Carolina counties.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical educational, public safety and social challenges, and will provide economically disadvantaged communities access to vital quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program, provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as middle mile connectivity, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies through the establishment of public computing centers which foster community education and access, both critical for strengthening the North Carolina communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services in order to enhance economic development, increase educational opportunities, and improve governmental transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Watauga County recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

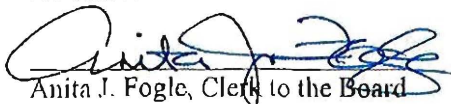
WHEREAS, Watauga County seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability.

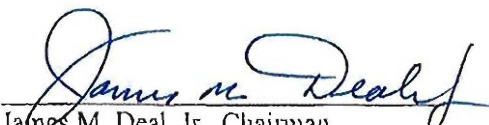
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners requests the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

ADOPTED this the 1st day of March, 2010.

ATTEST:


Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board


James M. Deal, Jr., Chairman
Watauga County Board of Commissioners



COUNTY OF WILSON

NORTH CAROLINA TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

KIM DUPREE, DIRECTOR
1817 GLENDALE DRIVE, WILSON, NC 27893

PHONE 252-399-2801
FAX 252-399-2780

March 2, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
MCNC
President and CEO
3021 Cornwallis Road
Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

I am pleased to represent the citizens of Wilson County in endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network for Community Anchor Institution sites in our county where that might be advantageous to us.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Wilson County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the Initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Wilson County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of operation and pass these savings onto consumers and small businesses.

This initiative is particularly important to Wilson County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.5% and our per capita income is \$20,879, both well below the state and national averages. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Dupree", is positioned above the printed name.

Kim Dupree
Technology Services Director
Wilson County