

FLORIDA RURAL BROADBAND ALLIANCE, LLC LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Legislative

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings
Congressman F. Allen Boyd, Jr.
Congressman Jeff Miller
Congressman Vern Buchanan
Office of the Governor
Representative Brad Drake
Representative Denise Grimsley
Representative Kevin J. Rader
Representative Marti Coley
Senator Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr.
U.S. Senator Bill Nelson

FRBA Strategic Partners

Florida Department of Transportation
Hardee County Industrial Development Authority
Mainstreet Broadband
North Florida Broadband Authority
Xiocom Wireless

City and County Leadership

Calhoun County BOCC
City of Apalachicola
City of Bowling Green
City of Bristol
City of Chattahoochee
City of Clewiston
City of Gretna
City of Jacob City
City of Marianna
City of Moore Haven, Florida
City of Okeechobee
City of Port St. Joe
DeSoto County BOCC
Franklin County BOCC
Gadsden County BOCC
Glades County BOCC
Gulf County BOCC
Hardee County BOCC
Hardee County Clerk of Court

Hardee County Property Appraiser
Hardee County Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County Tax Collector
Hendry County BOCC
Highlands County BOCC
Holmes County BOCC
Jackson County BOCC
Liberty County BOCC
Town of Campbellton
Town of Havana
Town of Sneads
Town of Zolfo Springs
Washington County BOCC

Essential Public Services

Bonifay Police Department
City of Blountstown Police Department
DeSoto County Public Safety Department
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Hardee County Emergency Management
Hardee County Fire Rescue
Hardee County Sheriff's Office
Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Holmes County Emergency Management

Education and Libraries

Calhoun County Public Library System
Chipola College
Edison State College
Glades County School District
Gulf County Schools
Heartland Educational Consortium
Heartland Library Cooperative
Holmes District School Board
Indian River State College
School Board of Highlands County
School District of Okeechobee County
South Florida Community College
The School Board of Hardee County
The School Board of Liberty County
The School District of DeSoto County
Washington County District School Board
Washington County Public Library

Economic Development

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce
Atlanticblue
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce
Carrabelle Area Chamber of Commerce
Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board, Inc.
City of Wauchula Community Redevelopment Agency
Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce
Economic Council of Okeechobee
Enterprise Florida
Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce
Glades County Economic Development Council, Inc.
Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Inc.
Gulf County Economic Development Council
Hardee County Chamber of Commerce
Heartland Workforce
Hendry County Economic Development Council
Highlands County Economic Development Commission
Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Development Council, Inc.
Ridge Area Arc
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc.
The Chamber of Washington County
Workforce Plus

Health Care

Campbellton-Graceville Hospital
Doctors Memorial Hospital
Doctors' Memorial Hospital
Florida Hospital Heartland Division
Heartland Rural Health Network, Inc.
Hendry/Glades Counties Health Department

Airport Authorities

Collier County Airport Authority
Sebring Regional Airport

Electric Cooperatives

Glades County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative
West Florida Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

Other

Capital City Bank
David H. Melvin, Inc. Consulting Engineer
First National Bank of Wauchula
Florida's Great Northwest
Gatorama
Jim See Realty, Inc.
Lykes Land Investments, Inc.
Main Street Wauchula
PBS&J
PBS&J
River Forest Yachting Center
Trails End Fishing Resort
Wauchula State Bank

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
23RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FLORIDA

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
VICE-CHAIRMAN

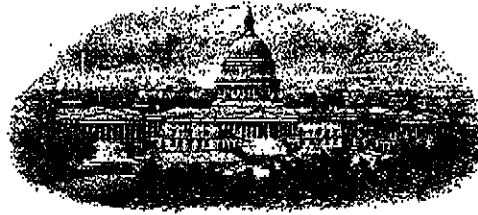
RULES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
AND BUDGET PROCESS
CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
HELSINKI COMMISSION
CO-CHAIRMAN

FLORIDA DELEGATION
CO-CHAIRMAN

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0923

March 22, 2010

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2353 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-1313
FAX: (202) 225-1171
- 2701 W. OAKLAND PARK BOULEVARD
SUITE 200
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33311
TELEPHONE: (954) 733-2800
FAX: (954) 735-8444
- MANGONIA PARK TOWN HALL
1755 E. TIFFANY DRIVE
MANGONIA PARK, FL 33407
TELEPHONE: (561) 881-9613
FAX: (561) 881-9679

www.alceehastings.house.gov

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, Inc.
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308

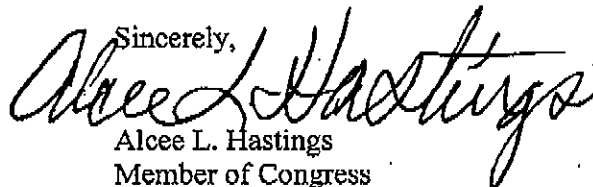
Dear Mr. Sheets:

I am pleased to support the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs).

These RACEs consist of eight counties in the Northwest Florida region and all or parts of six counties in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

The FRBA supports broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. I believe the FRBA will provide the targeted counties with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy. I wish you great success, and I am willing to help in any way that I can.

Sincerely,


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

ALH:dl

ALLEN BOYD
SECOND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEFENSE

FINANCIAL SERVICES
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE:
BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1227 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5235

DISTRICT OFFICES:
LAKESIDE BUILDING, SUITE 103
1650 SUMMIT LAKE DRIVE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317
(850) 561-3979

30 WEST GOVERNMENT STREET, ROOM 203
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
(850) 785-0812

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Mr. Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Facsimile: 866-856-9519

Reference: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant
Application for Broadband Funding

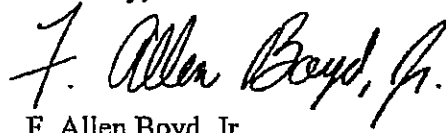
Please accept this letter as a true expression of my support for the Florida Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As you may know, the FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from fifteen (15) rural disadvantaged Florida counties with the purpose of meeting the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). The Northwest Florida region RACEC encompasses Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties while the South Central Florida region RACEC is comprised of De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties and also including the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County. The attainment of ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel them forward to achieve a more level status with the rest of the country.

I believe and support the notion that should FRBA be successful in obtaining this AARA broadband grant the capacity for economic growth, prosperity, and vitality in both the Northwest Florida region and the South Central Florida region will be greatly improved through the interconnection of community anchor institutions such as hospitals, schools, and libraries as well as extending advanced broadband infrastructure to the citizens and existing and future businesses of both regions.

Since the designation by the Florida Legislature of the Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern I have been an advocate for and supporter of these rural organizations and their programs that strive to bring new jobs and opportunities into their respective regions. Funding provided by receipt of this grant money will provide these areas, not with the luxury of having Broadband, but with the necessity of having Broadband in

order to compete on a level playing field with the metro communities within the state and country. Your careful consideration of this grant application would be very much appreciated. Should you need additional information please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Allen Boyd, Jr." in a cursive style.

F. Allen Boyd, Jr.
Member of Congress

JEFF MILLER
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
RANKING MEMBER

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2439 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4138

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4300 BAYOU BOULEVARD
SUITE 13
PENSACOLA, FL 32503
(850) 479-1183

348 S.W. MIRACLE STRIP PARKWAY
SUITE 24
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548
(850) 864-1288

<http://jeffmiller.house.gov>
Toll Free: 1-866-367-1614

March 19, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Mr. Sheets:

I would like to express my support for the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application requesting broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of several counties within Florida's First Congressional District, for which I represent. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

I am eager to see a project such as this funded, as it literally spans a wide spectrum of critical sectors within the areas that will be benefited through advanced community efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, disaster preparedness, libraries, and emergency operations. This project will generate clean jobs and cost savings through local ownership of a network where community shareholders freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand.

I believe that the opportunities gained through this proposal will provide Northwest and South Central Florida with a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. Please grant all possible consideration to funding this very important initiative. With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely



JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress

JM/jm

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION



SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TAX
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS,
HEALTHCARE AND TRADE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

March 19, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets

RE: Florida's Heartland REDI (FHREDI) Broadband Proposal

This letter is in support of Florida Heartland's effort to expand broadband access to 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties, including DeSoto and Hardee counties in Florida's 13th District. Broadband would help propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

By providing these counties with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, FRBA would help them meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

1518 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20616
(202) 225-6016
FAX: (202) 226-0828

235 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE
SUITE 201
SARASOTA, FL 34236
(941) 861-8843
FAX: (941) 861-2972

1001 THIRD AVENUE WEST
SUITE 380
BRADENTON, FL 34205
(941) 747-9081
FAX: (941) 749-6310

I support the development of this network and praise the FHREDI for participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vern Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vern Buchanan

Member of Congress



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

March 15, 2010

Robert Sheets, CEO
GSG, Inc.
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Re: Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC - BTOP Round 2 Application

Dear Mr. Sheets:

The Governor's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) supports the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC's (FRBA) application for federal stimulus funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). As proposed in their application package, the Northwest and South Central Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern formed the new LLC to apply for funding to construct a wholesale, open-access microwave and fixed wireless Middle Mile broadband network. The service area is comprised of fourteen (14) of Florida's most rural economically distressed and underserved counties.

The network design is nearly identical to that utilized in the only successful Round 1 Grant Application in Florida. The validity and efficiency in delivering high-speed capacity for anchor institutions and last mile providers has been proven by the successful submittal by the North Florida RACEC through the North Florida Broadband Authority. This design and application represents Florida's best opportunity to bring Broadband Stimulus funds to our region in this final round.

REDI acts as an advocate for economic growth in rural areas through the creation and expansion of value-added job opportunities, increased skill levels and appropriate infrastructure improvements, resulting in an enhanced economic development and quality of life for all people in rural communities

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Scholz".

Diane Scholz
Sr. Analyst- Economic Development Programs
Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Brad Drake

District 5

District Office:
NWFSC - Chautauqua Campus #205
908 Hwy. 90 W
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
(850) 892-8431
(850) 892-8433 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:
313 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-0000

brad.drake@myfloridahouse.gov

March 12, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets,

Please know that I am very interested in most any effort to expand broadband internet services to rural communities. In the modern technology world we live in now, it's very challenging to survive efficiently without access to the internet. Even more so it's becoming a real challenge to survive without access to high-speed internet.

I understand the FRBA is petitioning for favorable consideration for a grant that will allow for broadband service build-out in areas of rural economic concern, and I support their intentions. I am very appreciative for any favorable consideration you may lend.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Drake".

Brad Drake
Representative - 5

Committees:

Government Accountability Act Council
Joint Legislative Sunset Committee
Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee
State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee
State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee

Denise Grimsley
Florida House of Representatives
District 77

District Office:
205 South Commerce Avenue
Suite B
Sebring, FL 33870-3604
(863) 385-5251
(863) 386-6002 (Fax)

Toll Free Number: 866-888-6516
Email:denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov

Tallahassee Office:
223 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-3457
(850) 414-8737 (Fax)

March 15, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

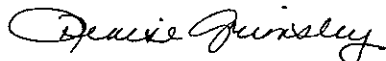
I am very excited about the grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Grant funds will provide our region with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

I support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. I believe that FRBA will provide access advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy. If the grant is awarded and high-speed, affordable access to the information highway is made available, I want to be one of the anchor tenants. Your plan would certainly be a very large step towards closing the digital divide that exists in our rural communities.

I believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

We hope for a successful outcome to this grant application.

Sincerely,



Denise Grimsley

Chair, Health Care Appropriations Committee;
Vice Chair, Select Policy Council on Strategic and Economic Planning;
Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care;
Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; Joint Legislative Budget Commission;
Health & Family Services Policy Council; General Government Policy Council



Florida House of Representatives
Representative Kevin J. G. Rader
 District 78

DISTRICT OFFICE:
 7593 Boynton Beach Blvd.,
 Suite 100
 Boynton Beach, FL 33417
 Phone: (561) 279-1633
 Fax: (561) 279-1634

DISTRICT OFFICE:
 100 N US Highway 1
 1st Floor
 Ft. Pierce, FL 34950
 Phone: (772) 595-1391
 Fax: (772) 279-1392

CAPITOL OFFICE:
 1401 The Capitol
 402 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 Phone: (850) 488-5588

COMMITTEES:
 Joint Legislative Sunset
 Committee

PreK-12 Policy Committee

General Government Policy
 Council

Insurance, Business, &
 Financial Affairs Policy
 Committee- Democratic
 Ranking Member

STAFF:
 Megan Schraeder
 Legislative Aide

Tangie Jennings
 Becca Williams
 District Aides

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 C/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

March 19, 2010

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets,

Lynn Topel is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, I support the initiative for broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. With the award of this grant, FRBA regional and community area networks will advance community efforts, create local jobs, allow for cost savings and promote community collaboration and efficiency.

I believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Rader
 District 78
 Florida House of Representatives

Florida House of Representatives
Representative Marti Coley
District 7

Reply to:

- 3094 Indian Circle
Room 186
Marianna, Florida 32446
(850) 718-0047 Fax (850) 718-0062
- 319 Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 488-2873 Fax (850) 922-7755
- 5230 West Highway 98
Administration Room 203
Panama City, Florida 32401

*Chair, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

*Vice Chair, Education Policy Council

*PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

*PreK-12 Education Policy Committee

*Select Committee on Seminole Indian Compact Review

Marti.Coley@myfloridahouse.gov

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

I am writing today to extend my heartfelt support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organizations representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the entire region with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

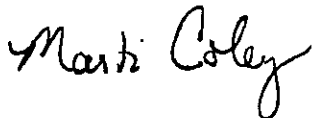
- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a

traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

As an ardent supporter of these rural organizations and their programs that endeavor to bring new jobs and countless opportunities into the region, I want to impress upon you the importance of this funding. Broadband access is no longer a luxury but a necessity for residents, students and businesses alike. We would look forward to a time when the RACEC designation is no longer needed and the regions can compete on even footing with the rest of Florida and the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marti Coley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Marti Coley



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
 General Government Appropriations, *Vice Chair*
 Banking and Insurance
 Governmental Operations - Policy and Steering
 Governmental Oversight and Accountability
 Health Regulation
 Reapportionment
 Rules
 Ways and Means - Policy and Steering

SELECT COMMITTEE:
 Florida's Inland Waters, *Vice Chair*

JOINT COMMITTEE:
 Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR ALFRED "AL" LAWSON, JR.

Democratic Leader
 6th District

March 10, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

I am writing today to extend my heartfelt support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the entire region with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced

REPLY TO:

□ 228 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5004

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JEFF ATWATER
 President of the Senate

MIKE FASANO
 President Pro Tempore

March 10, 2010

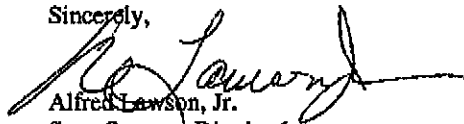
Page 2

broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.

- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

As an ardent supporter of these rural organizations and their programs that endeavor to bring new jobs and countless opportunities into the region, I want to impress upon you the importance of this funding. Broadband access is no longer a luxury but a necessity for residents, students and businesses alike. We would look forward to a time when the RACEC designation is no longer needed and the regions can compete on even footing with the rest of Florida and the country.

Sincerely,



Alfred Lawson, Jr.
State Senator, District 6

Allmd



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

March 12, 2010

Mr. Robert E. Sheets
Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

RE: Florida Rural Broadband Alliance Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools and libraries in order to extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from fifteen rural disadvantaged Florida counties. This collaboration is designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). If funded, ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

August 17, 2009

Mr. David J. Villano
Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program
Rural Utilities Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Washington, DC 20250-1500

Dear Mr. Villano:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the *Opportunity Florida*¹ / *North Florida Economic Development Partnership*² / *Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative*³ application for the Rural Utilities Service Broadband Initiatives Program. These three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern, designated by the Governor of Florida, have come together to pursue funding to help deploy a regional broadband network in the three rural regions of Florida. By providing much needed communications infrastructure to the twenty eight rural counties, opportunities for economic development will increase and quality of life will improve in rural Florida.

Currently, Sections 337.401 - 337.404, Florida Statutes and Rule 14-46.001, Florida Administrative Code allow communication lines access along the State Highway System, other than limited access right-of-ways.⁴ All utility owned facilities on Florida Department of Transportation rights-of-way must be authorized by permit and all utility design work, to the extent allowed by Florida law, must comply with FDOT requirements. As long as each rural county submits permits with designs in accordance with the current FDOT Utility Accommodation Manual, the Florida Department of Transportation will issue the necessary permits.

Intrinsic Value and Stability of State Right-of Way

According to a report issued by the Federal Highway Administration to Congress in 2007⁵, using a state department of transportation as a right-of-way provider eliminates some risks that would otherwise accompany having a private entity as the right-of-way providers. The risk of bankruptcy of the right-of-way provider and potential rejection of the right-of-way agreement by the bankruptcy party is much lower when the provider is a governmental entity. To the extent the right-of-way grant can be made in the form of an

¹ Northwest Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern

² North Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern

³ South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern

⁴ FDOT Utility Accommodation Manual

<http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/proceduraldocuments/procedures/bln/710020001/Chapter-1.pdf>

⁵ Rural Interstate Corridor Communications Study Report to Congress – August 2007, page 116
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/int_lts_deployment/rural/congrpt0807/report_to_congress.pdf

Mr. David J. Villano
August 17, 2009
Page two

easement, the telecommunications company partner enjoys even greater stability of the right-of-way grant under state property laws.


Value of State Right-of-Way

Due to drastic differences in rural land values across the state and the lack of exact corridor alignments, right-of-way values reflective of the specific corridors are not available at this time. Recognizing Florida Statutes allow utilities (including telecommunications/broadband) to be placed on non-limited access right-of-way without a permit fee, utility applicants are not required to purchase easements from adjacent landowners. In comparison, some states require applicants to purchase such easements for locating utilities and/or pay a permit fee to the state.

Fortunately, this cost will not be incurred by the applicant if they comply with Rule 14-46, Florida Administrative Code and the FDOT Utility Accommodation Manual when designing their facilities. Therefore, for purposes of valuing the necessary right-of-way for this project, one may assume this cost alleviation/avoidance to the applicant as the Florida Department of Transportation's in-kind match for the Broadband Initiatives grant application.

Thank you for initiating this effort to help strengthen the information infrastructure across rural America. In addition to the direct benefits to the rural areas, such a project would increase the Department's future opportunities to co-locate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in state-owned right-of-way in these rural counties. For these reasons, the Florida Department of Transportation is committed to serving as a key partner in meeting the challenge of rapidly expanding the access and quality of broadband services in rural Florida.

Sincerely,


Brian Blanchard, P.E.
Chief Engineer

BB/mwc
Copies: Stephanie Kopelousos
Kevin Thibault
Debbie Hunt

HARDEE COUNTY

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

March 24, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding:

In session on March 18, 2010 the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners granted its consent and approval for the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority to provide cooperation, assistance and support to the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA). Through its own initiative the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (HCIDA) has created the Hardee Broadband Project. By providing funding for Broadband infrastructure, the HCIDA has consented through Memorandum of Understanding (attached) to allow such funding to be utilized as grant match for the FRBA. Additionally, please find attached all support letters previously solicited for the Hardee Broadband Project with consent to use such support for the FRBA.

The Hardee Broadband Project inclusive of its supportive constituency, under the auspices and jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

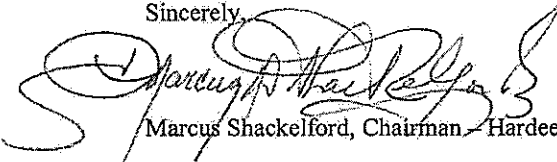
The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds.

A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

 3/24/2010
Marcus Shackelford, Chairman - Hardee County Industrial Development Authority

107 East Main Street
Wauchula, Fl 33873

PHONE (863) 773-3030
FAX (863) 773-4915
E-MAIL director@strato.net
WEB SITE <http://www.hardeebusiness.com>



March 24, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Broadband Grant Application

Main Street Broadband (MSB) is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks.

As you know, Main Street Broadband (MSB) through its wholly-owned subsidiary Broadband South LLC, is an RUS broadband loan borrower. Our RUS funded territory covers the following communities within the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC service areas:

County	Communities	County	Communities
Franklin	Eastpoint Apalachicola Carrabelle Unincorporated Rural Areas	Gadsden	Chattahoochee Unincorporated Rural Areas
Gulf	Wewahitchka Port St. Joe Unincorporated Rural Areas	Holmes	Bonifay Unincorporated Rural Areas
Jackson	Marianna Cottondale Greenwood Unincorporated Rural Areas	Washington	Chipley Unincorporated Rural Areas

In addition, MSB is applying for a BIP Round 2 application to bring broadband access to the following additional unserved and underserved communities in the FRBA territory:

County	Communities	County	Communities
Calhoun	Altha Town Blountstown Unincorporated Rural Areas	Liberty	Bristol City Unincorporated Rural Areas

MSB is interested in using the FRBA infrastructure to deliver commercial services to residents and businesses in all of the above-mentioned communities, which we believe are underserved or unserved. MSB will buy multi-megabit IP “Middle Mile” transport services and use key tower and rooftop sites from the FRBA constituents within and around these markets.

More importantly, we believe access to this new “Middle Mile” network will allow us to rollout new or competitive commercial services 50-75% quicker. The robust and redundant capability of the FRBA will allow us to further enhance our services and sustainability both short and long term. By having more robust and ubiquitous “Middle Mile” infrastructure from FRBA, Main Street Broadband will be able to more cost-effectively serve the residential and commercial marketplace with more sustainable and affordable broadband services.

We fully support the efforts of the FRBA to deliver new critical “Middle Mile” infrastructure from high-capacity fiber networks to the edge of these 14 counties as part of a unique and much needed ‘public/private’ partnership.

Sincerely,

Main Street Broadband LLC



Michael F. Mies
Chief Executive Officer



North Florida Broadband Authority
Expanding Access to Broadband Throughout North Florida

March 24, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

RE: Letter of Support for Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

On behalf of the North Florida Broadband Authority I am submitting this letter in support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance's application for Round 2 BTOP funding. The NFBA was awarded \$30 million in Round 1 of the BTOP program to construct a broadband middle mile network to serve the North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). The NFBA region covers 15 counties and 8 cities in North Central Florida. The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from rural and economically disadvantaged communities located throughout 15 counties within the Northwest Florida RACEC and the South Central Florida RACEC seeking to expand access to broadband infrastructure throughout their regions. The approval of FRBA's grant application would ensure the expansion of access to broadband facilities throughout the 30 rural counties within the 3 Florida RACECs included in the NFBA and the FRBA service areas. The counties within the three Florida RACECs share common challenges and characteristics of persistent poverty, unemployment and under-education. The RACEC designation for the communities within the FRBA service area demonstrates the extraordinary needs of the citizens and businesses in these communities for educational improvements, job creation and economic development that can be spurred by the expansion of broadband facilities.

The NFBA network architecture was approved in large part because of its cost effective delivery of broadband middle mile capacity across large geographic areas. Further, the network design's utilization of existing towers and back bone assets promotes the "shovel ready" nature of the project by reducing the needs for environmental assessments and other site preparation work needed by other projects. The NFBA has been informed that its network is exempt from environmental assessment procedures, putting its project at the forefront of all applications funded in Round 1. We understand that the FRBA network has been designed consistent with the same approach used in the NFBA application; therefore, the FRBA project should be fully "shovel ready" upon approval of the FRBA application. This will help to speed the deployment of middle mile facilities throughout all 3 of Florida's struggling RACEC regions as soon as possible.

While meeting all 7 of the statutory goals identified in the Notice of Funds Availability for BTOP's Round 2, the FRBA project will for the first time provide ubiquitous middle mile broadband internet access to residents, private entities, community anchor institutions, critical community facilities, public institutions and business community in unserved, underserved and remote areas of the Northwest Florida RACEC and the South Central RACEC. Broadband infrastructure is critical to these communities in order to provide 21st century education, health care, public safety and business development opportunities for their citizens. Availability and access to reliable, high speed internet and other network connectivity is a critical infrastructure component necessary to attract new business and industry into the FRBA areas and to ensure that existing residents and businesses are competitive in today's state, national and global business and industrial environments. A 2008 study conducted by the Florida House of Representatives determined that expanded access to broadband facilities was one of the critical

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC

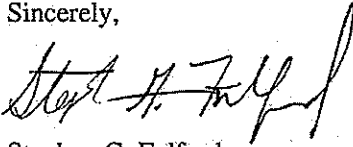
March 24, 2010

Page 2

infrastructure needs of Florida's rural communities. On June 24, 2009, Florida Governor Charlie Crist signed into law Chapter 2009-226, Laws of Florida, providing that broadband internet service is critical to the economic development of rural communities in the State, including the 3 RACEC regions. Further, in the State's review of Round 1 applications, the applications submitted for all 3 of the RACEC regions were designated as the Governor's highest priority for broadband deployment.

The NFBA applauds the efforts of the communities located within the FRBA regions to work collaboratively to create a solution that gives their communities a better future. The need for expanded access to broadband within these regions is demonstrated by the enthusiastic support of the benefitted communities, businesses, agencies and project partners aiding in the development of the FRBA project. At its March 17, 2010 Board of Directors meeting, the NFBA Board voted unanimously to approve an expression of its highest support for the FRBA application. The NFBA believes that the citizens of Florida's RACEC communities deserve broadband access. This project must be funded if the Northwest Florida RACEC and South Central Florida RACEC are to have the same opportunities as the residents of the NFBA region and the rest of America to thrive, create clean jobs, provide high quality education and healthcare services, and provide public safety and governmental services through the expansion of broadband facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Fulford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Stephen G. Fulford
Chairman, North Florida Broadband Authority

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519



Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

XioCom is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

As network infrastructure builder, application integrator, and local service provider, with existing operations in North Western XioCom believes this innovative, collaborative project will be a highly effective investment of federal economic stimulus money and opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Richardson', is written over a horizontal line.

Troy Richardson
CEO
XioCom Wireless, Inc.

3505 KOGER BLVD., SUITE 400 DULUTH, GA PHONE 678-218-5600 FAX 678-218-5531 www.xio.com

ATLANTA AMSTERDAM CAPE TOWN

CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
20859 SE CENTRAL AVENUE
BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA 32424

March 23, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Calhoun County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Calhoun County with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant

application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth W. Attaway" in a cursive script.

Ruth W. Attaway

Ex officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



CITY OF APALACHICOLA

1 Bay Avenue • Apalachicola Florida 32320 • 850-653-9319 • Fax 850-653-2205
www.cityofapalachicola.com

Mayor
Van W. Johnson, Sr.

Commissioners
Brenda Ash
John M. Bartley, Sr.
Frank Cook
James L. Elliott

City Administrator
Betty Taylor-Webb

City Clerk
Lee H. Mathes, CMC

City Attorney
J. Patrick Floyd

March 22, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
Attention: Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

**RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant
Application for Broadband Funding**

The City of Apalachicola is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Imnookalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Apalachicola with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.


The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

We support this funding request to the fullest possible extent and commend the FRBA Governing Board for taking the initiative to undertake this endeavor to complete this worthwhile project. If we may provide any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Betty Taylor-Webb

Administrator

CITY OFFICIALS
YVONNE KIMBALL, CITY MANAGER
PAMELA S. NORTHUP, CITY CLERK
MARY SUE RUSSELL, DEPUTY CLERK
JOHN SCHEEL, POLICE CHIEF
GERALD BUHR, CITY ATTORNEY



COMMISSIONERS
PERRY KNIGHT, MAYOR
RANDY MINK
WOODY CALIGAN
FERN GIBSON
RICHARD BARONE

P.O. BOX 608, 104 E. MAIN ST.
BOWLING GREEN, FL 33834-0608
(863) 375-2255, FAX (863) 375-3362

August 10, 2009

Bill Lambert
Hardee County Economic Development Office
P.O. Box 458
Wauchula, FL 33873

Re: Hardee County Broadband Project

Dear Mr. Lambert:

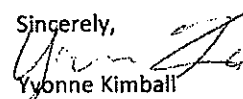
Globalization has created enormous competition. Rural America must have state of the art communication technology available to its producers if it is to compete in this global economy. We cannot and must not take for granted that rural access will ever be completely served with communication systems dependent upon wire or cable technology.

For this reason the City of Bowling Green supports and endorses the Hardee County Broadband Project. We concur with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project application. Re-emphasizing, it is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, conventional systems are either too expensive or years away from providing access and it is unlikely the private sector will make investment without government assistance.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It will provide opportunities for underprivileged children to advance academically by making available in addition to broadband access computer hardware and technology. It will greatly enhance and expand our local economy.

It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving the our education system and public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

As a community in a rural County in the State of Florida designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Kimball
City manager
City of Bowling Green

CITY OF BRISTOLP.O. BOX 207
BRISTOL, FLA. 32321

March 10, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The City of Bristol is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Bristol with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract
- and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



H. Mitch Willis, Council Chairman

CITY OF BRISTOL, FLORIDA



CITY of CHATTAHOOCHEE

POST OFFICE BOX 188
CHATTAHOOCHEE, FLORIDA 32324-0188
www.ci.chattahoochee.fl.us

CITY HALL
Telephone: (850) 663-4046
Fax: (850) 663-2456
E-mail: cityclerk@gtcom.net

UTILITY & PUBLIC WORKS
Telephone: (850) 663-4475
Fax: (850) 663-4233
E-mail: citymgr@gtcom.net

PUBLIC SAFETY
Telephone: (850) 663-4383
Fax: (850) 663-8510
E-mail: vannpullen@gtcom.net

PARKS & RECREATION
Telephone: (850) 663-2123
Fax: (850) 663-3800
E-mail: crmset@gtcom.net

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The City of Chattahoochee is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Chattahoochee with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



ELMON LEE GARNER
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF CLEWISTON

115 WEST VENTURA AVENUE

CLEWISTON, FL 33440

TELEPHONE 983-1484
AREA CODE 863

FAX 983-4055
AREA CODE 863

March 15, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets:

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The City of Clewiston is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties, as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County, in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the City of Clewiston with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC

Page 2

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

City of Clewiston

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mali Chamness", written over the typed name.

Mali Chamness

Mayor

CITY OF CLEWISTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF THE FLORIDA RURAL BROADBAND ALLIANCE GRANT APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT.

WHEREAS as the City of Clewiston is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) Grant application; and

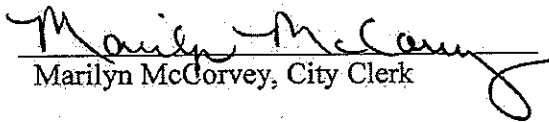
WHEREAS the City supports broadband internet services being served in the under-served and unserved areas of Clewiston and Hendry County, as well as all other areas in our coalition; now

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Clewiston is hereby authorized to sign a Letter of Support which is attached here to.

Approved and signed this 15th day of March 2010.



Mali Chamness, Mayor



Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk



March 22, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets:

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The City of Gretna is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Gretna with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

**Post Office Drawer 220 Gretna, Florida 32332
Voice 850-856-5257 Fax 850-856-9454**

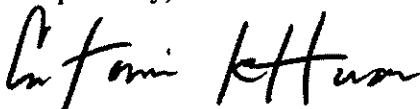
www.mygretna.net

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the “walls” of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Respectfully,



Antonio Jefferson
City Manager

Post Office Drawer 220 Gretna, Florida 32332
Voice 850-856-5257 Fax 850-856-9454

www.mygretna.net

Riley Henderson, City Manager

Verloria T. Wilson, City Clerk

George Little, Attorney

Seat 1: Jamaker Sorey

Seat 2: Bernice Milton, Mayor

Seat 3: Emmanuel Henderson

Seat 4: Cora Beechem

Seat 5: Ardelia Blount

CITY OF JACOB CITY

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

City of Jacob is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Jacob with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

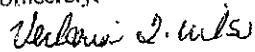
The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.

- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Verloria T. Wilson
City Clerk



CITY OF MARIANNA
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Post Office Box 936
Marianna, FL 32447
(850) 482-4353 Fax (850) 482-2217
Email: deanj@cityofmarianna.com

March 10, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

City of Marianna, Florida is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Marianna with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

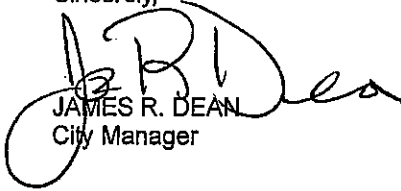
The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.
- **The City of Marianna is presently considering a Broad Band project to provide service to its citizens and surrounding community. This project will allow us to move closer to providing such service.**

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



JAMES R. DEAN
City Manager



City of Moore Haven, Florida

Post Office Box 399
Moore Haven, Florida 33471
Telephone: (863) 946-0711 FAX: (863) 946-2988

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for
Broadband Funding

The City of Moore Haven is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). This RACEC consists of De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the City of Moore Haven with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

MAYOR BRETT WIDDEN
VICE MAYOR DAVE MCGEE
COUNCILMAN/FINANCE OFFICER JOHN R. AHERN
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL C. BRANTLEY
COUNCILMAN HARRY OGLETREE
CITY MANAGER FRANK M. THOMAS, III
CITY CLERK MAXINE BRANTLEY

- 2 -

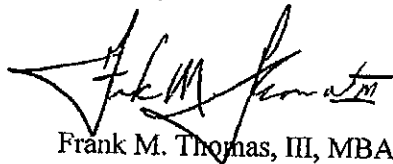
March 16, 2010

- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Frank M. Thomas, III, MBA
City Manager



City of Okeechobee

Brian Whitehall

Office of the City Administrator

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA)
Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

The City of Okeechobee is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the City of Okeechobee with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high-speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

March 16, 2010

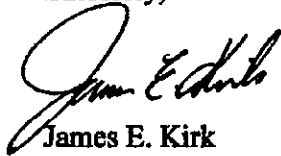
Page 2

- **Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern,**
- **Competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.**
- **Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.**
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.**

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

It is with the above in mind that the City Council lent its support to Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC through City Council action this date.

Sincerely,



James E. Kirk

Mayor



The City of Port St. Joe

Post Office Box 278 • Phone (850) 229-8261
Port St. Joe, Florida 32457

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

The City of Port St. Joe is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Port St. Joe with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

MEL MAGIDSON, JR.
Mayor/Commissioner

ARTHUR WHITE
Commissioner, Group I

CHARLES STEPHENS
Commissioner, Group II

JOHN REEVES
Commissioner, Group III

REX BUZZETT
Commissioner, Group IV

CHARLES W. WESTON
City Manager

PAULINE W. PENDARVIS
City Auditor and Clerk

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Mr. Sheets
Page 2
March 16, 2010

- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

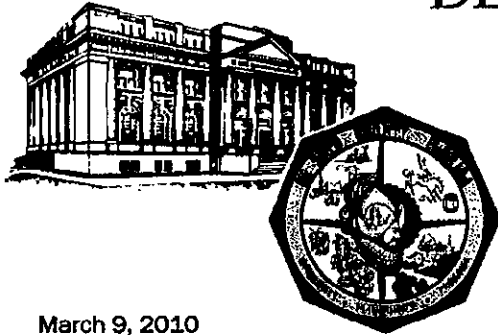
We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Weston
City Manager

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY



Administration Building
 Suite 201
 201 East Oak Street
 Arcadia, Florida 34266
 Telephone (863) 993-4800
 SunCom 740-4800
 Fax (863) 993-4809
Drug-Free Work Place

March 9, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (850) 224-7206

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

DeSoto County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of two Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs): Northwest (Opportunity Florida) and South Central (FHREDI). These RACECs consist of the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington (Opportunity Florida) and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee (FHREDI) as well as numerous municipalities. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects Community Anchor Institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through Community Area Networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** In healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald P. Needs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald P. Needs, Chairman

FRANKLIN COUNTY

REPLY TO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-8861, EXT. 100
FAX (850) 653-4795



REPLY TO

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPT.
34 FORBES STREET, SUITE 1
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-9783
FAX (850) 653-9799

March 9, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Franklin County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the businesses and residents of Franklin County with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely, 

Joseph Parrish, Chairman

PINKI JACKEL
District One

CHERYL SANDER
District Two

NOAH LOCKLEY, Jr.
District Three
Vice Chairman

JOSEPH PARRISH
District Four
Chairman

BEVIN PUTNAL
District Five



GADSDEN COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS:
EUGENE LAMB, JR.
District 1
DOUGLAS M. CROLEY
District 2
GENE MORGAN
District 3
BRENDA A. HOLT
District 4
SHERRIE D. TAYLOR
District 5

EDWARD J. BUTLER
GADSDEN COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX

JOHNNY WILLIAMS
County Administrator

DEBORAH S. MINNIS
County Attorney

March 17, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets:

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Gadsden County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Gadsden County with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.

 printed on recycled paper

9-B East Jefferson Street ♦ P.O. Box 1799 ♦ Quincy, Florida 32353-1799 ♦ (850) 875-8650 ♦ (850) 875-8655 FAX
www.gadsdencountyfl.gov

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance LLC

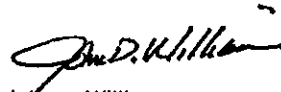
March 17, 2010

Page 2

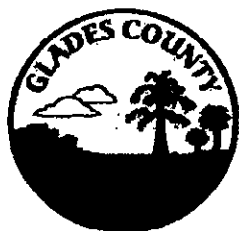
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Johnny Williams
County Administrator



Glades County Board of County Commissioners

P.O. Box 1018 • 500 Avenue J • Moore Haven, Florida 33471
 Phone: (863) 946-6000 or (877) 445-2337 • Fax: (863) 946-2860
 Internet address <http://www.myGlades.com>

March 9, 2010

K.S. "Butch" Jones
 District 1

Donna Storter Long
 District 2

Paul Beck
 District 3

Russell Echols
 District 4

Robert L. Giesler
 District 5

Wendell H. Taylor
 County Manager

Richard W. Pringle
 County Attorney

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Glades County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the citizens and businesses with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

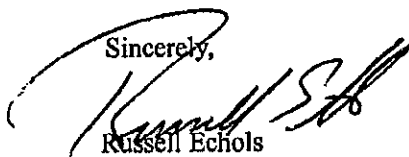
- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

Mr. Robert E. Sheets
March 9, 2010
Page Two

- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Russell Echols

Chairman, Glades County BOCC

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

Donald Butler, Chief Administrator

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR. BLVD., ROOM 302, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456

PHONE: (850) 229-6111/229-6106/639-6700 • FAX: (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: dbutler@gulfcounty-fl.gov

DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAYS AT 9:00 A.M., E.T. AND FOURTH TUESDAYS AT 6:00 P.M., E.T.

March 15, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Gulf County Board of County Commissioners is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

CARMEN L. MCLEMORE
District 1

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
District 2

BILL WILLIAMS
District 3

NATHAN PETERS, JR.
District 4

WARREN YEAGER
District 5

- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely

GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donald H. Butler
Chief Administrator



HARDEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
412 West Orange Street, Room 103
Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863)773-9430 * (863)773-6952 * Fax (863)773-0958
bcc@hardeecounty.net www.hardeecounty.net

August 10, 2009

Mr. William R. Lambert, Jr., Director
Hardee County Economic Development Council
107 East Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873

Dear Mr. Lambert:

The Hardee County Board of County Commissioners heartily endorses the Hardee County Broadband Project. It is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, systems that rely solely on cable or wire dependent installations are either too expensive or years away from providing access.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving our public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

As a rural County in the State of Florida designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Dale Johnson, Chairman

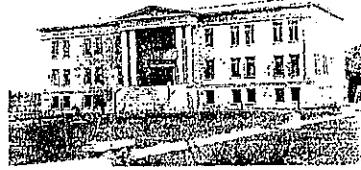
DAJ:sm

Dale A. Johnson, Chairman - Minor L. Bryant, Vice-Chairman
Terry Atchley - Clifton N. Timmerman - Bobby R. Smith
County Manager Lexton H. Albritton, Jr. - County Attorney Ken Evers

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

**B. Hugh
Bradley**

Clerk of Circuit Court
P.O. Drawer 1749
Wauchula, FL 33873



**Hardee County
Courthouse**

Telephone: (863)-773-4174
Facsimile: (863) 773-4422
Website: www.hardeeclerk.com

August 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hardee County Broadband Project for which we are seeking funding promises to provide enhanced wireless broadband access to the many in our rural community and to our citizens of municipalities within Hardee County. Most areas of our county do not currently enjoy this service. To gain access will be a giant positive technological step for our citizens.

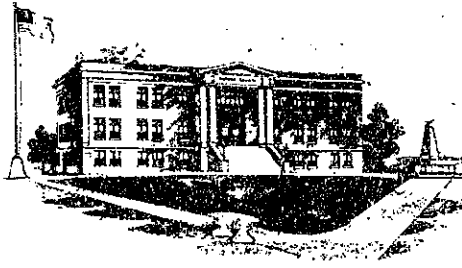
Additionally, complete access to wireless broadband technology for our population has potential for greatly enhancing and expanding our local economy. Our student population will benefit immeasurably from this effort. I agree with and support the efforts of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners in seeking this improved service for our citizens and heartily endorse the Project. Rural areas that have been left behind must become more technologically competitive. Cable or wire dependent installations will not provide that competitive edge.

As a rural County in the State of Florida that has been designated a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern", we ask for your consideration and approval of our application. Funding will be greatly appreciated and effectively and efficiently used.

On behalf of the citizens of our county, we genuinely thank you.

Sincerely,

B. Hugh Bradley
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida



Hardee County

KATHY L. CRAWFORD
PROPERTY APPRAISER

August 10, 2009

Mr. William R. Lambert
Hardee County Economic Development
P. O. Box 458
Wauchula, FL 33873

Dear Mr. Lambert:

As a Constitutional officer for Hardee County and as Property Appraiser, I am a proponent of any economic development initiatives that will enhance the quality of life for our citizens. Businesses today rely heavily on fast, reliable, internet services. Without the benefit of these services our growth is greatly inhibited. I strongly believe that complete access to wireless broadband technology for our student population, other sister agencies and private sector businesses and citizens will greatly enhance and expand our local economy.

I concur with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project. It is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, systems that rely solely on cable or wire dependent installations are either too expensive or years away from providing access.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It will provide opportunities for underprivileged children to advance academically by making available in addition to broadband access computer hardware and technology.

It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving the our education system and public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

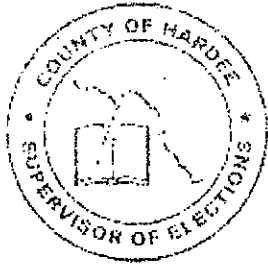
Mr. William R. Lambert
Page 2

As a rural County in the State of Florida designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy L Crawford".

Kathy L Crawford, CFA
Property Appraiser
Hardee County



Jeffery Ussery
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County

August 7, 2009

As a Constitutional officer for Hardee County and as Supervisor of Elections, complete access to wireless broadband technology for our student population, other sister agencies and private sector businesses and citizens will greatly enhance and expand our local economy.

I concur with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project. It is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, systems that rely solely on cable or wire dependent installations are either too expensive or years away from providing access.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It will provide opportunities for underprivileged children to advance academically by making available in addition to broadband access computer hardware and technology.

It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving the our education system and public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery Ussery". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeffery Ussery
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



Zerelda "Zee" Smith, C.F.C
Tax Collector, Hardee County
CERTIFIED FLORIDA COLLECTOR

August 7, 2009

Mr. Bill Lambert
Hardee County Economic Development Director
107 E. Main Street
PO Box 458
Wauchula, Florida 33873

Dear Mr. Lambert:

As a Constitutional officer for Hardee County and as Tax Collector, complete access to wireless broadband technology for our student population, other sister agencies and private sector businesses and citizens will greatly enhance and expand our local economy.

I concur with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project. It is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, systems that rely solely on cable or wire dependent installations are either too expensive or years away from providing access.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It will provide opportunities for underprivileged children to advance academically by making available in addition to broadband access computer hardware and technology.

It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving our education system and public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

As a rural County in the State of Florida designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this application.

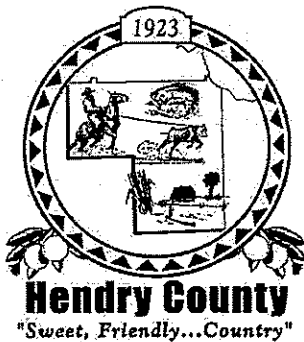
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Zerelda Smith'.

Zerelda 'Zee' Smith
Hardee County Tax Collector

315 North 6th Avenue • P.O. Box 445 • Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863) 773-9144 • Fax (863) 773-9679

e-mail — hardeetaxoffice@earthlink.net • www.hardeecountytaxcollector.com



HENDRY COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 2340
LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340

Judi Kennington-Korf
County
Administrator

Mark F. Lapp
County
Attorney

Barbara Butler
Clerk
of the Courts

Mr. Robert E. Sheets
Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
1500 Mahan Drive, Site 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Facsimile: 866-856-9519

March 16, 2010
2010-101

Subject: Support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance Grant Application

Dear Mr. Sheets:

During their March 9th, meeting the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners voted to support the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Hendry County, a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) community, located in South Florida joins the region in greatly benefiting from an advanced broadband network.

The successful award of this grant would provide a number of necessities urgently needed: The advancement of community efforts in public safety, healthcare, education; it would create much needed jobs (Hendry has the highest unemployment rate in the State); allow for substantial cost savings; and promote community collaboration and efficiency.

With sincerity, we believe the successful award of this grant will give not only our region but the State as well a great foundation for achieving the board goals of the economic stimulus and better position our area for the future. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with both the public and private sector to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judi Kennington-Korf'.

Judi Kennington-Korf,
County Administrator

C:\Documents and Settings\cajudi\My Documents\EcoDev\Economic Development.doc

Janet B. Taylor
District 1

Darrell R. Harris
District 2

Tristan Chapman
District 3

Kevin S. McCarthy
District 4

Karson Turner
District 5



HIGHLANDS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Highlands County strongly supports the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

We support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide Highlands County with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

P. O. Box 1926
Sebring, Florida 33871-1926
Phone (863) 402-6500
Fax (863) 402-6835

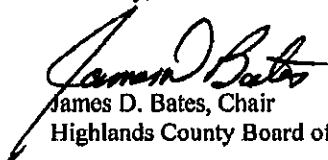
BTOP Support Letter
Page 2 of 2

March 16, 2010

- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to considering participation in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



James D. Bates, Chair

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners



**HOLMES COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

107 E Virginia Ave.
Bonifay, Florida 32425
(850) 547-1119 FAX (850) 547-4134
www.holmescountyfl.org

JIM KING
District 1

MONTY MERCHANT
District 2

PHILLIP MUSIC
District 3

KENNETH WILLIAMS
District 4

RON MONK
District 5

March 23, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Holmes County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Holmes County with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

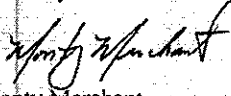
- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information

sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Monty Merchant
Chairman

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Jackson County BOCC is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Jackson County BOCC with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

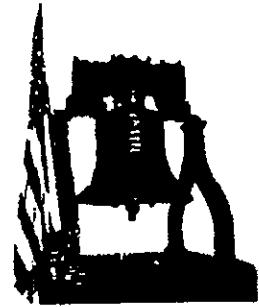
Sincerely,



M. Elena Stackowicz
5726 Tropical Lane, Greenwood FL 32443

Liberty County Board of County Commissioners

Post Office Box 399
Bristol, Florida 32321
Phone: (850) 643-5404



March 9, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Liberty County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the County/City/Business/Entity Name with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant

application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davis Stoutamire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Davis Stoutamire, Chairman



Town of Campbellton

5283 Highway 231
Post Office Box 38

Phone: (850) 263-4535
Fax: (850) 263-8502

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The Town of Campbellton in Jackson County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Town of Campbellton with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not standing research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Wanda M. Moore, President
Town Council

Howard L. McKinnon, Town Manager
Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk



P.O. Box 1068
Havana, Florida 32333-1068
Phone: 850/539-2820

March 10, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

Town of Havana is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Town of Havana with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure

Sincerely,


Howard L. McKinnon
Town Manager



Town Of Sneads
P.O. Box 159
Sneads, Florida 32460

850-593-6636
fax 850-593-5079

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The Town of Sneads would like to convey its support for the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As one of the communities located in a state designated Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern in Jackson County, we are excited about the possibility that the ARRA grant funds will provide our region with the necessary economic stimulus to propel us forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Town of Sneads with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

It is our hope that the FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

We hope that this innovative opportunity will give our area a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning us for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,


Ed Kilpatrick

Town Manager
Town of Sneads

Phone (850) 593-6636

Fax (850) 593-5079

email Sneadsfl@sneadsfl.com

TOWN OF ZOLFO SPRINGS

4210 U.S. Hwy. 17 S
P.O. Box 162
Zolfo Springs, Fl. 33890-0162

Phone: (863) 735-0405
Fax: (863) 735-1684

August 7, 2009

Bill Lambert
Hardee County Economic Development Office
P.O. Box 458
Wauchula, FL 33873

Re: Hardee County Broadband Project

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Globalization has created enormous competition. Rural America must have state of the art communication technology available to its producers if it is to compete in this global economy. We cannot and must not take for granted that rural access will ever be completely served with communication systems dependent upon wire or cable technology.

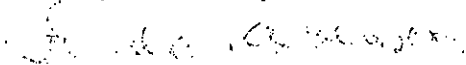
For this reason the Town of Zolfo Springs supports and endorses the Hardee County Broadband Project. We concur with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project application. Re-emphasizing, it is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, conventional systems are either too expensive or years away from providing access and it is unlikely the private sector will make investment without government assistance.

The Hardee County Broadband Project will provide access to both un-served and underserved areas of our County and sister municipalities. It will provide opportunities for underprivileged children to advance academically by making available in addition to broadband access computer hardware and technology. **It will greatly enhance and expand our local economy.**

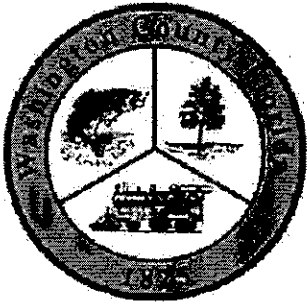
It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. This project more than meets all of the goals of the America Recovery Act. In addition to improving our education system and public safety efficiency it will, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

As a rural County in the State of Florida designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,



Linda Roberson
Town Manager



Emory Pitts
Administrator

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY FL 32428
TELEPHONE: (850) 638-6200, FAX: (850) 638-6106

DONNIE STRICKLAND
District One

JOEL PATE
District Two

CHARLES BROCK
District Three

EDDY HOLMAN
District Four

BILL HOWELL
District Five

THOMAS G. HOLLEY
Attorney

March 9, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Washington County Board of Commissioners is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Washington County Board of Commissioners with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g.; smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and

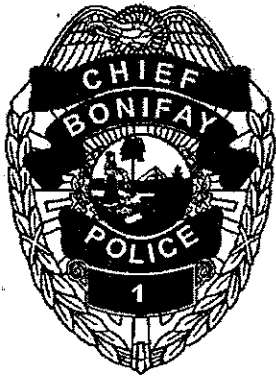
integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emory Pitts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

Emory Pitts
County Manager



809 S. WAUKESHA STREET, BONIFAY, FL 32425
PHONE (850) 547-3661
FAX (850) 547-0462
www.bonifaypolice.com

Bonifay Police Department

Chris Wells, Chief

March 18, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The City of Bonifay Police Department is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the City of Bonifay Police Department with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment

- and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Chris Wells
Chief of Police

TELEPHONE
850-674-5987

FAX
850-674-4110



GLENN KIMBREL
Chief

**CITY OF BLOUNTSTOWN
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

20580 CENTRAL AVENUE WEST
BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA 32424

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application
for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

The Blountstown Police Department is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest regions of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward into more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organizations representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support the ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc. as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Blountstown Police Department with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

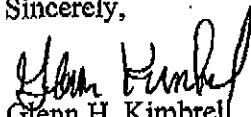
The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

1. Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (E.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research of critical, perhaps life-saving data.
2. Create local jobs keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
3. Allow for cost savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
4. Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, Improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Any consideration given in funding this grant will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Glenn H. Kimbrel
Chief of Police



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DE SOTO COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
FIRE & RESCUE
 1985 S.E. Carlstrom Field Road
 Arcadia, Florida 34266
 Office (863) 993-4842 SunCom 740-4842
 Facsimile (863) 993-4844 SunCom 740-4844

March 17, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
 c/o Robert E. Sheets
 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
 Tallahassee, Florida 32308
 Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

DeSoto County Fire Rescue is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide DeSoto County Fire Rescue with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

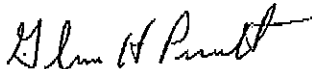
The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Glenn H. Prescott

Fire Chief



Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Skip Shiver, Sheriff

270 State Road 65 – Eastpoint, Florida 32328

Phone: 850-670-8500 Fax: 850-670-8566 www.franklinsheriff.com

March 16, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant
Application for Broadband Funding

Franklin County is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the businesses and residents of Franklin County with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- * Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

Honor • Integrity • Excellence

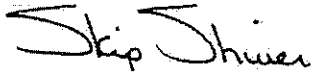
* Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.

* Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

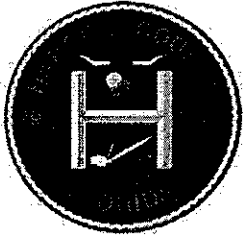
* Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Shiver". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Skip Shiver
Franklin County Sheriff



Hardee County Emergency Management

Richard S. Shepard, Director
404 West Orange Street
Wauchula, Florida 33873-2831
Voice (863) 773-6373
Fax (863) 773-9390
www.hardeecounty.net/eoc

8/7/09

To Whom It May Concern,

The Hardee County Office of Emergency Management fully endorses the Hardee County Broadband Project. As the agency tasked with preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against all hazards, this service will have numerous benefits for all phases of disaster management.

When our planners and responders have 100 percent broadband service throughout the county, it will improve our ability to provide better "ground truth" data back to the Emergency Operations Center and our counterparts at the state and local level. This can result in improvement in disaster response and lead to faster recovery times for the county and its municipalities.

In conclusion, having blanket broadband coverage in Hardee County is a worthwhile project with positive impacts for our citizens. Please accept this letter as my full and complete endorsement of this project.

Respectfully,

Richard S. Shepard, FPEM
Emergency Management Director

COMMISSIONERS

District I-Minor L. Bryant

District II-Clifton N. Timmerman

District III-Terry Atchley

District IV- Bobby Ray Smith

District V-Dale A. Johnson



Hardee County Fire Rescue Administration

149 K.D. Revell Rd Wauchula, FL 33873
Office: (863) 773-4362 Fax: (863) 773-3827
Michael J. Choate, Fire Chief

August 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Director of Public Safety, as well as the Fire Chief, I fully endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project. It has become increasingly imperative for rural area response agencies such as ours, to have complete and efficient access to high speed broadband technology applications.

Currently our responding units are running a web-based Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) on each laptop. We rely solely on wireless air cards. This project will open more doors for public safety, possibly allowing us to explore a more efficient and cost effective manner of operations.

Additionally, blanket coverage could aid in providing numerous benefits for all phases of response and disaster management. Increasing efficiency on the scene of an emergency can be immeasurable. In our business, decreasing time saves lives.

In conclusion, Hardee County Public Safety fully supports this project. We are excited and very much look forward to this worthwhile endeavor for the citizen of Hardee County.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Choate
Public Safety Director/Fire Rescue Chief
Hardee County Division of Public Safety

Our Sacrifice, Your Safety

August 10, 2009

Bill Lambert, Director
Hardee County Economic Development
Post Office Box 458
Wauchula, Florida 33873

Dear Sir,

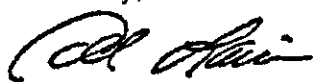
As Sheriff of Hardee County and a Constitutional Officer, complete access to wireless broadband technology for our county will greatly enhance our public safety and Law Enforcement effectiveness.

I concur with the Board of County Commissioners and likewise, heartily endorse the Hardee County Broadband Project. It is increasingly imperative for rural areas to have complete, competitive and efficient access to high-speed broadband technology applications. Unfortunately, systems that rely solely on cable or wire dependent installations are either too expensive or years away from providing access.

It is an answer to providing the "last mile" broadband service to 100% of residents and students in this rural county. In addition to improving our education system and public safety efficiency, it may, through the increase of access, stimulate the American Economy and create jobs now.

As a rural county in the State of Florida, designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern", we earnestly seek your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,



Arnold Lanier, Sheriff
Hardee County, Florida



Highlands County Sheriff's Office



Susan Benton, Sheriff
434 Fernleaf Avenue
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-402-7200

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Highlands County Sheriff's Office is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future. Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the Highlands County Sheriff's Office with access to necessary advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

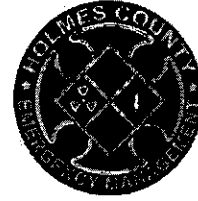
- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.
- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Benton".

Susan Benton,
Sheriff
Highlands County



Holmes County Emergency Management

1001 East Highway 90
Bonifay, Florida 32425
(850) 547-1112 Fax (850) 547-7002

March 17, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

The Emergency Management Office is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward onto more even footing with the rest of the country.

Through the FRBA, (an alliance of two organization representing 14 rural counties designated by the State Legislature as areas of critical economic concern), we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both region's capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. This grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. We believe that the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance will provide the Holmes County Emergency Management Department with access to a robust broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

- **Advance Community Efforts** in healthcare, education, public safety, governmental services delivery, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.

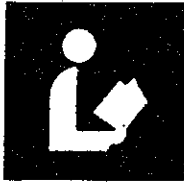
- **Create Local Jobs** by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- **Allow for Cost Savings** through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
-
- **Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning both regions for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop an advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Wanda S. Stafford

Wanda S. Stafford, Director
Holmes County Emergency Management



Calhoun County Public Library System

Rita Shields Maupin, Director
17731 N.E. Pear Street
Blountstown, Florida 32424

(850) 674-8773
FAX (850) 674-2843

Blountstown, Altha, Kinard Park, Hugh Creek Park and Sheltons Park Public Libraries

March 9, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
C/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Re: Florida Rural Broadband Alliance Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Mr. Sheets:

I am writing this letter of support as the Library Director of the Calhoun County Public Library System. We have 5 facilities located in the very rural area of Northwest Florida. We have a total of 108 computers. The Blountstown Library serves as our headquarters facility. Each of the 5 buildings has fragmented DSL lines to the buildings and a combination of hardwiring and wireless inside. The Blountstown Public Library's connectivity is of particular concern as we have 60 work stations plus a laptop wireless lab with insufficient bandwidth to meet public and staff needs. Mark Flynn, our State Library Consultant, in an e-mail about the Blountstown Library, said, *"I don't think a T1 will be enough bandwidth. To be fair to your users you probably need at least 25 MB connection"*.

Calhoun, Jackson, Washington and Holmes Counties are identified as Rural Counties of Critical Economic Concern; the public libraries in these four counties are struggling to provide sufficient broadband to support public service requirements. The increased demands of e-government, e-commerce, and e-books along with SIRSI, a very sophisticated circulation system, is requiring more bandwidth than we are able to obtain and/or afford.

The Calhoun County Public Library System received a \$35,000 cut in State Aid this year and has been told to anticipate another \$30,000 next year. The Department of Children and Families as well as Federal agencies are sending clients to these public libraries to access their services. Large Federal and State Agencies are stressing our already inadequate connectivity in attempts to serve citizens of this county. If the rural public libraries are to be able to provide library services, circulate materials, provide e-mail, e-government, e-commerce and meet innovative challenges such as e-books and social networking we have got to have help. If Federal and State government expect to use library scaffolding to provide their e-services they have got to help libraries.

We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners in the development of an advanced broadband infrastructure. We need this network and we support its development.

Respectfully,


Rita Shields Maupin

Cc: Ruth Attaway, Calhoun County Clerk of Court and Library Board Chair
Merle Jones, Panhandle Public Library Cooperative Board Chair



CHIPOLA COLLEGE

A Higher Degree of Success

3094 Indian Circle Marianna, Florida 32446-2053 850-526-2761
www.chipola.edu

March 15, 2010

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
C/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Mr. Sheets:

RE: Letter of Support – Florida Rural Broadband Alliance Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Chipola College is pleased to have the opportunity to both support and partner with the FRBA grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The FRBA exemplifies the best of regional collaboration of local governments and economic development agencies from fifteen rural disadvantaged Florida counties. Our goal is focused to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). These RACEC counties consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida Region. The Southwest Region consists of the counties of De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. The ARRA Grant Funds will provide these regions with the necessary economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward in terms of equity with the rest of the country.

Through this FRBA fourteen county alliance, we support their ARRA broadband grant application, thus advancing both regions' capacity for economic growth, prosperity and vitality. Specifically, this grant will better allow the interconnection of community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc., as well as extend advanced broadband infrastructure to its people and existing businesses. In fact, Chipola College is in the process of implementing a broadband grant in our Networking Services Technology Instructional Program in order to assist the technician training needs of this region with several industry certifications as well as to help meet the challenges of our new information economy. Moreover and in collaborative fashion, the FRBA Grant will advance community efforts through broadband capacity, create local jobs through community support services, allow for cost savings through local ownership

of a high performance network and **promote community collaboration** through cost and resource sharing.

Chipola College believes that this innovative opportunity will give the Northwest and South Central region an excellent foundation for achieving both the broad goals of economic stimulus and the immediate and essential job creation for local economic stability. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with the state, local and community based organizations as well as private partners to develop and advance broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bud Riviere". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Bud Riviere, Dean

Workforce Development and Continuing Education



EDISON STATE
COLLEGE

HENDRY/GLADES CENTER

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

March 16, 2010

Dear Mr. Sheets,

Edison State College is pleased to support the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding. An expanded broadband access will afford Edison State College students faster access to educational opportunities and have an added economic benefit to the region as a whole.

This branch of Edison serves the targeted rural areas of Hendry, Glades, and parts of Collier Counties. Our classrooms and labs are filled with students and community members who cannot access the web any other way at present. It is very evident that broadband access is fundamental to the economic recovery of this region and to the necessary retraining and job creation that is so desperately needed.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Jones, Ed.D.
Dean

4050 Cowboy Way
LaBelle, FL 33935
Tel 863-674-0468
www.edison.edu

Edison State College is an equal access, equal opportunity organization.

GLADES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building Academic Excellence

March 18, 2010

Wayne Aldrich
Superintendent

Scott Bass
Administrative Services Director

Deborah Pressley
Curriculum Services Director

Susan Williams
Finance Director

Janice Foster
Exceptional Student Education Director

School Board

- **Janet Storey**
District 1
- **Jenny Allen**
District 2
- **Jeri Wilson**
District 3
- **Mike Pressley**
District 4
- **Patricia Pearce**
District 5

Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC
c/o Robert E. Sheets
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Facsimile: (866) 856-9519

Dear Mr. Sheets,

RE: Letter of Support Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Glades County School District is an enthusiastic partner in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) grant application for broadband stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The FRBA is a regional collaboration of local and tribal governments, economic development agencies and community activists from 15 rural disadvantaged Florida counties designed to meet the essential and advanced broadband network needs of the Northwest Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). These RACECs consist of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties in the Northwest Florida region and De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties as well as the unincorporated area of Immokalee in Collier County in the Southwest region of Florida. ARRA grant funds will provide these regions with the necessary and rapid economic stimulus to propel Northwest and South Central Florida forward now and long into the future.

Through the FRBA, we support broadband advancement and economic development by creating sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects community anchor institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through community area networks. We believe that FRBA will provide the Glades County School District with access to a robust advanced broadband infrastructure, helping us to meet the challenges of our new information economy.

The FRBA regional and community area networks will:

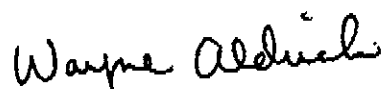
- Advance Community Efforts in healthcare, education, public safety, emergency management, disaster preparedness, alternative energy (e.g., smart grid), and research through high speed access to innovative experiences, resources and tools otherwise not available within the "walls" of a traditional community institution. The community will be better equipped to push research and information sharing beyond the community borders, not stranding research or critical, perhaps life-saving data.



- Create Local Jobs by keeping support services within the community and generating jobs for designers and builders of broadband networks, manufacturers of broadband-enabled equipment and devices, developers of software and other applications and creators of content of all kinds. A high performance advanced broadband network will not only attract and enable modern, competitive businesses that require big broadband, but it will also support local small business entrepreneurs who require access to business on the web.
- Allow for Cost Savings through local ownership of a high performance network where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and foster continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- Promote Community Collaboration and Efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face to face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure that ensures exchange of essential information and integrated, innovative and accessible services across departments freeing staff to focus on providing better service to citizens.

We believe that this innovative opportunity will give Northwest and South Central Florida a great foundation for achieving the broad goals of the economic stimulus and start positioning Northwest and South Central Florida for the future. As the grant application process unfolds, we support the development of this network. We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with state, regional, local and community-based, and private partners to develop a robust advanced broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Wayne Aldrich
Superintendent,
Glades County School District