ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
Timothy D. Pelesky
Associate Dean of Information Technology
Office Phone: 301-784-5312
tpelesky@allegany.edu

www.allegany.edu

Cumberland Campus
12401 Willowbrook Road, SE
Cumberland, MD 21502-2596
301-784-5000

School of Hospitality, Tourism,
and Culinary Arts
110-114 Baltimore Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-784-5410

Bedford County Camp
18 North River La
Everett, PA 155
814-652-95

Somerset County Camp
6022 Glades Pike, Suite 1(
Somerset, PA 15501-43(
814-445-98

Bedford County Technical Cent
195 Pennkroll Ro
Everett, PA 155
814-623-27

March 4, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Sir:

Allegany College of Maryland strongly supports the State of Maryland's efforts to enhance the broadband telecommunications infrastructure of Western Maryland.

Our college relies on a private microwave network to supply Internet bandwidth to each of our campus locations. This connection is often impacted by equipment failure and interference due to adverse weather conditions. Termination of fiber at our campus could alleviate the technical challenges and expense of maintaining our current connection, and would provide "room to grow" for many years to come.

Allegany College of Maryland continually investigates methods to acquire alternate sources of high speed broadband Internet access. In our 2009 investigation, we found that costs to install fiber transmission lines to access alternate bandwidth supplies were entirely cost prohibitive. This project would alleviate that burden and would provide an opportunity for Allegany College of Maryland to improve network services for our students. Improved communication between many Maryland institutions of higher education and access to new online and remote-site course offerings are just a few of the additional benefits this project would afford to our college.

We look forward to the prospect of having fiber at our doorstep. Access to this broadband communication medium is increasingly becoming a necessity for the continued growth of Allegany College of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Timothy D Pelesky

Timothy D. Pelesky
Associate Dean of Information Technology
Allegany College of Maryland

Anne Arundel Community College

101 College Parkway Arnold, Maryland 21012-1895 410-777-AACC (2222)

Martha A. Smith, Ph.D.
President
410-777-1177
Fax 410-777-4222

March 15, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Re: One Maryland Broadband Network
Deputy CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

Dear Mr. Urban:

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is pleased to support the One Maryland Broadband Plan in its application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. This program will promote county and state economic development as the colleges in the consortium provide an ever-increasing variety of educational services, many of which have significant technological requirements.

As a community anchor institution and major economic driver in Anne Arundel County, AACC serves over 57,000 students each year at over 100 sites throughout the county and via online coursework. We are particularly sensitive to reaching un-served and underserved residents. The broad scope of the college's services, coupled with ever-increasing technological demands, present constant challenges to our institution.

Currently, some of AACC's remote sites are utilizing commercially provided services for data connectivity. These services are costly to the college, provide insufficient bandwidth, and are limited in scalability. The services do not provide the bandwidth required for the range of learning technologies needed to support the delivery of educational services. In addition, AACC is currently utilizing Comcast internet service at a cost of $32,000 annually to augment and provide redundancy to the internet service provided by University of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System (UMATS).

Connectivity to One Maryland Broadband could save money and open up opportunities to share resources with other Maryland institutions to increase access to learners in any location. For example, AACC and Frostburg State University, through connection to UMATS, will be able to utilize high quality videoconferencing technology to reach more students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the success of this vital regional and national initiative.

Sincerely,

Martha A. Smith, Ph.D.
President

CCBC
The Community College of Baltimore County

The incredible value of education.
www.ccbcmd.edu

March 22, 2010

Mr. Ira levy
Information Technology
Howard County Government
8930 Stanford Boulevard
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Mr. Levy:

The Community College of Baltimore County wishes to advocate for the Maryland BTOP grant application. We have a critical need for improved access to broadband service to help the College achieve our core educational and job-training mission. A critical starting point in fulfilling this mission is the broadband access that this grant would provide. If the grant is approved and the proposed broadband network implemented, the Community College of Baltimore County would be a participant in this service.

Our need for broadband connectivity promises to be a long-term issue. It is required to provide access to more educational opportunities, learning resources and institutional partners. The college has invested in broadband services for the college but cannot keep up with every growing need to expand it to keep up with enrollment growth, applications and online services. Budget constraints due to the ongoing economic crisis will affect our capabilities to purchase bandwidth sufficient for these current and future needs from private providers.

If the broadband network project is constructed and we are connected to the middle-mile infrastructure, our anticipated broadband service will enable us to:

- Improve capability to provide media rich instruction for students on campus and workforce development initiatives.
- Improve capability to create partnerships with other institutions and businesses through use of interactive online video and web conferencing.
- Inter-connect with all community colleges in the state of Maryland allowing us to leverage resources enhancing our ability to offer advanced learning experiences.

Thank you for including the Community College of Baltimore County as one of your network's community anchors. Construction of the network would represent a great opportunity for us and for the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Darrow Neves

Darrow Neves
Chief Technology Officer
Community College of Baltimore County
800 S. Rolling Road, Catonsville MD 21228

Office of the President
Dr. Faye Pappalardo

March 23, 2010

Mr. Ira levy
Information Technology
Howard County Government
8930 Stanford Boulevard
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Mr. Levy:

Carroll Community College is a member of the Carroll County Public Network Consortium that also includes Carroll County Government, Carroll County Public Schools, and Carroll County Public Library. We strongly endorse and support the One Maryland Broadband Network BTOP Grant Application.

While there are commercial alternatives for broadband service, they are extremely cost-prohibitive at the higher bandwidth levels. Our budget simply cannot absorb the bandwidth requirements necessary to provide a 21st Century Community College education. Access to high bandwidth is necessary to stay competitive and achieve our core educational and job-training mission. The Carroll County Public Network in conjunction with the One Maryland Broadband Network is critical for meeting the needs of our students.

Our need for broadband connectivity is required to provide access to enhanced educational opportunities, learning resources, and institutional partners. While the college has invested in broadband services, it currently cannot maintain the level of service to keep up with enrollment growth, applications, and online services. The current national economic situation will affect our capabilities to purchase bandwidth sufficient for these current and future needs from private providers.

If this network is constructed it will enable the following:

- Improve capability to provide media rich instruction for students on campus and workforce development initiatives.
- Improve capability to create partnerships with other institutions and businesses through use of interactive online video and web conferencing.
- Inter-connect with all community colleges in the state of Maryland allowing us to leverage resources enhancing our ability to offer advanced learning experiences.

Thank you for including Carroll Community College as one of your network's community anchors. Construction of the network would represent a great opportunity for us and for the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Faye Pappalardo

Dr. Faye Pappalardo
President

HAGERSTOWN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

11400 Robinwood Drive • Hagerstown, Maryland 21742-6590 • 301-790-2800 • www.hagerstowncc.edu

March 15, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert St
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) has been a University of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System (UMATS) customer for the past several years. During that time we have found that the partnership between HCC and UMATS has worked extremely well. With the help of UMAT engineers, we have been able to co-manage the network routers at HCC to maximize performance and provide reliable service to our users with fewer outages than ever before.

Currently, HCC has a DS-3 that is connected to the UMATS system and subscribes to 10mb of service. This service provides the campus with its entire Internet and video conferencing needs. Most of the cost for HCC's Internet connection is paid to Verizon for the DS-3 lease.

Internet usage by faculty and staff at HCC has risen over the past several years and we anticipate this trend to continue. As a result, we anticipate the 10mb of bandwidth we currently have to be insufficient in the very near future. After conversations with the staff of UMATS, it was concluded that the best possible solution for HCC to increase its Internet bandwidth was to purchase and install its own fiber. With our own fiber, the college funds would no longer be used for leasing lines and instead be direct to increased bandwidth. With the possibility of HCC using a hosted solution for its learning management system and other student resources in the next year, we will need more bandwidth for our instructors.

If the University of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System was able to secure the grant to run fiber to our campus, HCC could subscribe to more bandwidth through UMATS with minimal economic hardship. As a direct result of this increase in bandwidth, the college would have the option of offering additional online resources to the instructors and students.

In our past dealings with UMATS, they have proven to be reliable and consistent. Their service and personnel are without fault. We look forward to continuing our partnership and watching it flourish in the upcoming years. It is our belief that this grant will be a big part of our future successes.

Craig Fentress
Director, Information Technology

401 Thomas Run Road Bel Air, Maryland 21015
443-412-2000 / 410-879-8920

March 19, 2010

Gregory Urban
Re: OneMaryland Broadband Network
Deputy CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

Dear Mr. Urban:

This letter is in regard to the Maryland BTOP grant application being submitted by Howard County. Harford Community College serves many residents of the county through teaching, research, training and outreach activities. In addition, the college is a big partner with Aberdeen Proving Ground and serves many of the Base Realignment and Closure initiatives through our Higher Education Center.

Harford Community College supports the Maryland BTOP grant application. We have a critical need for improved access to broadband service to help us achieve our educational, job-training, and community outreach mission. In the absence of this proposed network and continued severe budget cuts, the level of broadband service the college currently has will not continue to meet the demands of this community.

Our current bandwidth to our main campus is a 25 MB pipe with a 1.5 MB Point-to-Point (P2P) between our main campus and the HEAT Center. We are severely limited in what we can do both on campus and through our P2P.

We are currently paying upwards of $120,000 annually for our bandwidth and Internet services. In these very tight budgetary times, we can not afford to continue to pay this kind of money for a minimal, less than par, bandwidth and Internet services.

If the broadband network project is constructed and we are connected to the middle-mile infrastructure, our anticipated broadband service will enable us to:

- Increase our capacity to utilize media rich tools in the classroom both on and off campus.
- Increase our ability to meet the high demands of APG, BRAC and other work-force community needs.
- Inter-connect with all community colleges in the state of Maryland allowing us to leverage

our collective resources more effectively and efficiently. As an example, a cooperative Statewide Disaster Recovery Plan.

Thank you for including Harford Community College as one of your network's community anchors. Establishing this network would represent a great opportunity for us, our community and the state.

Sincerely,

Annie Pagura

Annie Pagura
Vice President Information Technology

HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
You Can Get There From Here

10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044-3197
410-772-4820
Fax: 410-772-4964
www.howardcc.edu

March 17, 2010

Mr. Ira levy
Information Technology
Howard County Government
8930 Stanford Boulevard
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Mr. Levy:

Howard Community College hereby indicates its support for and intended participation in the Maryland BTOP grant application. We have a critical need for improved access to broadband service to help us achieve our core educational and job-training mission. In the absence of this proposed network, however, we cannot afford sufficient broadband service, given the prohibitive expense of private sector service offerings available to our campus.

Our need for broadband connectivity promises to be a long-term issue. It is required to provide access to more educational opportunities, learning resources and institutional partners. The college has invested in broadband services for the college but cannot keep up with every growing need to expand it to keep up with enrollment growth, applications and online services. Budget constraints due to the ongoing economic crisis will affect our capabilities to purchase bandwidth sufficient for these current and future needs from private providers.

If the broadband network project is constructed and we are connected to the middle-mile infrastructure, our anticipated broadband service will enable us to:

- Improve capability to provide media rich instruction for students on campus and workforce development initiatives.
- Improve capability to create partnerships with other institutions and businesses through use of interactive online video and web conferencing.
- Inter-connect with all community colleges in the state of Maryland allowing us to leverage resources enhancing our ability to offer advanced learning experiences.

Thank you for including Howard Community College as one of your network's community anchors. Construction of the network would represent a great opportunity for us and for the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Thomas Glaser
Vice President Information Technology

CENTER FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION INNOVATION

August 3, 2009

Ms. Lori Sherwood
Howard County Cable Administrator

Dear Ms. Sherwood:

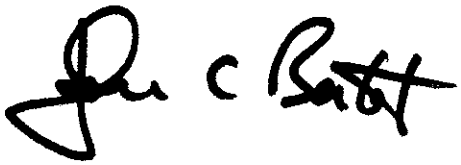
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) requires that grant recipients measure the success of their projects. The Center for Library & Information at the University of Maryland supports the efforts of and looks forward to collaborating with Howard County and others to conduct research into the impact of the One Maryland project on the communities, individuals, and partners served by the project.

The Center for Library & Information Innovation at the University of Maryland seeks to work with the One Maryland entities to develop a multi-method evaluation approach to measure the impact of the project. The research project will focus on data collection regarding the impacts of the broadband and broadband-enabled services and resources on communities, users, and anchor institutions.

The research project will incorporate a range of data gathering and interactive data presentation features. These may include, and are not limited to: 1) interviews, site visits, and case studies to explore the impact of broadband on the grant participant communities, institutions, and users of broadband services; 2) identification of best practice implementations of broadband-based services and resources; and detail the process of economic and other development within the community due to access to broadband; 3) surveys that collect data regarding broadband-enabled services and resources; 4) mapping that shows the grant participants, broadband, services offered, and other attributes; 5) blogs, discussion threads, and other features that enable grant participants to share their experiences, post strategies, and otherwise engage in information sharing activities that foster excellence in the use of broadband technologies and the provision of broadband-enabled services and resources; and 6) videos, vignettes, and other resources that demonstrate the uses and impacts of broadband-enabled services and resources by users.

The goal is to explore the impacts and benefits of broadband-enabled services on the communities served by enhanced broadband services.

Sincerely,



John Carlo Bertot, Ph.D.
Professor and Director,
Center for Library & Information Innovation
College of Information Studies
University of Maryland College Park
www.liicenter.org

Montgomery College

March 23, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
35 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

On behalf of Montgomery College, one of Maryland's largest comprehensive community colleges, I am pleased to offer the College's support for and intention to participate in the ***One Maryland Broadband Network***. Improved access to broadband service will play an important role in helping us achieve our core educational and job-training mission. Broadband is an essential tool for each of our students, whether they are earning associate degrees or transferring to four-year colleges and universities; entering the job market; upgrading career skills; completing technical training and apprenticeships; or participating in personal enrichment.

If the One Maryland Broadband Network is constructed and community middle-mile infrastructure is interconnected throughout the state, our anticipated broadband service will facilitate the vital community support we provide by:

- Improving capacity for providing media rich instruction for students on and off-campus
- Enhancing partnership facilitation with other organizations and businesses through use of fully interactive online video and web conferencing
- Providing seamless interconnectivity between all community colleges in the state of Maryland allowing greater leveraging of resources and an exponential increase in post-secondary learning opportunities for Maryland residents

Thank you for including Montgomery College as one of the community anchors in this endeavor. Construction of the network will represent a great opportunity for the College and for the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Michael Russell, Ed.D.
Vice President of Instructional and Information Technology
Chief Information Officer

PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JOSEPH G. ROSSMEIER, PhD
VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNOLOGY

301 LARGO ROAD
LARGO, MD 20774-2199
301-322-0987

August 11, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to the broadband stimulus funding proposal being submitted by Prince George's County Government. While the major emphasis of this grant proposal is focused on the installation of wide area network Internet services in the more rural portions of Prince George's County, one increasingly important teaching center of Prince George's Community College could also become a beneficiary of this grant.
It is important that the Laurel College Center, located at 312 Marshall Avenue, Laurel, MD, become connected to the County's I-Net fiber system. Not only do Prince George's Community College and Howard Community College teach courses at this site, four other universities also teach courses at this site as well. These universities include the University of Maryland University College, Towson University, College of Notre Dame, and Morgan State University. Other universities are also pending, given the strategic importance of this location in the higher education spectrum of Maryland and the involvement of these institutions' role in the BRAC initiative for Maryland. All of these institutions have increased need for more bandwidth to support various learning technologies.

Currently, this location is connected to the outside world via a very limited Verizon transparent LAN service that costs the College about $25,000 annually. Having direct connectivity to the Prince George's County I-Net will greatly enhance the Internet capabilities of this site and provide a major benefit to the students who attend classes at this site.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Rossmeier

Joseph G. Rossmeier, PhD
Vice President for Technology Services

St. Mary's College of Maryland
at Historic St. Mary's City

Campus Technology Support Services

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

Despite its relative proximity to Washington, D.C., St. Mary's College of Maryland is a rural and geographically isolated campus. Neither broadband nor cable Internet access are ubiquitous in the county. As a result, we are dependent on reliable and robust Internet access in order to maximize the resources available for our students, faculty, and staff. This is not simply a matter of technology for technology's sake, but is critical to our mission of providing excellent academic opportunities for teaching, learning, and research.

Internet access supports the teaching mission of St. Mary's in a number of ways. Faculty members across the curriculum frequently incorporate the use of audio and video in the classroom. A licensed streaming music service currently provides a significant amount of content but delivery quality is variable. Good quality audio files and the ability to advance to streaming video will require adequate and reliable bandwidth. Students in some programs (e.g., MAT) are producing teaching and certification materials that incorporate web-based media and which require the ability to use content in real time. Current network speed can often interrupt the flow in a classroom. In addition, pandemic planning, recent weather-related campus closures, and our large international study programs all rely on the ability to deliver content (both synchronous and asynchronous) to students and faculty around the region, state, and globe.

Here at St. Mary's College of Maryland faculty and students are always engaged in research. The ability to collaborate online with colleagues at other institutions has moved far beyond simple reliance on email. Video conferencing and data sharing in real time will provide faculty members with enhanced opportunities for work with colleagues around the world. The College library relies on the Internet to support its remote administrative system and access to all research databases which are used heavily by students and faculty. Preference for access to content online along with other shifts in publishing economics have resulted in our participation in consortial resource sharing initiatives all of which rely on use of the Internet by end users and staff. Online resources have turned libraries into 24/7 operations which are supported by our Internet access.

Finally, business and administrative operations of the College can be enhanced by more opportunities for communication with state offices and peer institutions using the web to reduce use of travel time for meetings. It is likely that cloud computing options will lead us to rely increasingly on services and tools that are Internet accessible, and that these options will present new and exciting opportunities for us.

We are honored to have the opportunity to offer our support for this very important grant endeavor. Faculty, students, and staff at higher education institutions around the state stand to benefit from the work it would support. St. Mary's College of Maryland has been transformed in many ways by the advent of Internet access and this grant will allow us to move to a new level in planning for a variety of teaching, learning, and research initiatives.

George W. Waggoner
Director, Campus Technology Support Services
St. Mary's College of Maryland
18952 E. Fisher Road
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DENTAL SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Baltimore College of Dental Surgery
Suite 6402 South
650 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1586
410 706 7461 | 410 706 0406 fax
www.umaryland.edu

March 23, 2010

To: Norwin Malmberg
Chief Network Technology Officer
University System of Maryland

From: Christian S. Stohler, DMD, Dr.Med.Dent
Dean
University of Maryland Dental School
650 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Subject: Network Connectivity to University of Maryland Dental School, Perryville.

In August 2009, the University of Maryland Dental School opened the doors to a new clinic in Perryville, Maryland. This new clinic was established to deliver dental services to persons in a rural area that would otherwise not have access to those services. This region has critical levels of unmet oral health needs. Health services will be provided by dental students and faculty from the University of Maryland Dental School, located in Baltimore, MD. Students will work on a 3-week rotation at the Perryville clinic and stay at the Donaldson Brown Estate in nearby Port Deposit, MD. The all-digital clinic will feature a bi-directional communications model designed to facilitate optimal patient care, treatment planning and educational support for students through real-time telemedicine interface with off-site practitioners at the school in Baltimore. Students will access lectures they would otherwise miss during their rotations at Perryville via MediaSite, an online lecture capture application.

Currently all servers are located at the Baltimore site. This makes it imperative that a fast reliable network is in place. Currently we are spending approximately $10,000 a month on three T1s for the Donaldson Brown Carriage House and two DS3s for the Perryville Clinic. This is extremely expensive and places a huge financial burden on the Dental School.

The availability of fiber to these two locations would eliminate the expensive $10,000 a month networking charge. It would also provide much needed bandwidth to the Donaldson Brown Conference Center. This bandwidth would also allow us to provide even more services to these distant sites. The University of Maryland Dental School believes in providing the best possible service and care to all residents of the state of Maryland no matter what the income level. That is why we have built the very best dental clinic in the most remote part of the state.

With the proposed fiber we can provide even more quality services to the students of University of Maryland Dental School and residents of the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent
Dean
University of Maryland Dental School

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 12, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
Department of Information Technology
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1994

1807
University of Maryland, Baltimore

1856
University of Maryland, College Park

1865
Bowie State University

1866
Towson University

1886
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

1898
Frostburg State University

1900
Coppin State University

1925
Salisbury University

1925
University of Baltimore

1925
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

1947
University of Maryland University College

1966
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

1985
University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute

Dear Mr. Urban:

I am writing in support of funding for the OneMaryland Broadband Network proposal, under the NTIA BTOP program, to extend broadband services to a wide range of anchor institutions in Maryland. In particular, the proposal will extend broadband service to many educational institutions and libraries that support underserved areas and populations in the state. This proposal is a collaborative response to Maryland's needs from many organizations including the University System of Maryland (USM).

While the USM data network currently connects the many campuses of the University System of Maryland as well as many community colleges, the fiber that will result from this project will allow us to extend our connections to areas that are poor in fiber resources. These include a research laboratory on the Chesapeake Bay, an extension of the University of Maryland dental school, a public college in southern Maryland, six community colleges, and a private college on the eastern shore. Additionally, this project will offer fiber connections to the secondary schools in Maryland that are not currently connected by a fiber link. Similarly, county library systems will be linked by fiber as a result of this project.

The USM has programs and activities that will take advantage of this enhanced network. For example, the USM will improve access to bridge courses for secondary students as well as improve in-service education for their teachers. USM institutions offer online education to adult learners, who will be able to have better access to these courses due to this initiative. USM health science colleges will have broader reach for telemedicine.

For these reasons, I strongly support the OneMaryland Broadband Network BTOP proposal on behalf of the University System of Maryland.

Sincerely,

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor

WOR-WIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

32000 CAMPUS DR
SALISBURY MD 21804
PHONE: (410) 334-2800
www.worwic.edu

March 11, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

Wor-Wic Community College fully supports the State of Maryland's grant proposal to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), established pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

We understand that the proposed project includes installation of fiber along Route 50 in front of the Wor-Wic Community College campus, in addition to a fiber connection running into the campus. The project would provide adequate, cost-efficient broadband services to the college, providing benefits to the college's students and staff. Benefits to the college include stable, redundant high-speed internet access, which will improve online services to students and staff such as access to the college's online learning management system, distance learning initiatives and online self-service portals such as class registration, financial aid and billing.

The benefits offered to Wor-Wic Community College and the local Eastern Shore of Maryland communities are clearly evident, and it is our privilege to support this project.

Sincerely,

Murray K. Hoy
President

WASHINGTON COLLEGE
FIRST COLLEGE CHARTERED IN THE NEW NATION

March 16, 2010

W. Patrick Mitchell
Maryland Broadband Cooperative
212W.Main Street, Suite 304
Salisbury, MD 21801

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing in support of a grant application that is being led by the State of Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT), with the Maryland Broadband Cooperative and Howard County's OneMD Consortium participating as sub-applicants. The grant proposal is for participation in the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). The project proposed in the grant application will also benefit from a partnership with the University of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System and with NetworkMaryland.

Washington College is one of the educational institutions on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that would benefit greatly if this grant is funded. The college is not only an educational institution, but it is also one of the largest employers in Kent County, Maryland. For years the college has struggled to obtain not only reliable and fast Internet connectivity, but also to have the opportunity to connect to a second Internet access route that provides redundancy and the capability to remain connected in the event of a catastrophic failure on the primary route. That is an important necessity with today's demands and reliance on technology solutions.

It is possible to obtain more than one connection from a carrier, but since both would connect to the same fiber build, there is no real redundancy. The 250 miles of new fiber optic backbone cable proposed in the grant application will provide the second physical fiber optic connection and do that at a lower cost to the institution than currently is available. Washington College is the only United States Government Documents repository on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and, as you know, is required by law to be accessible to the public. Constantly available Internet is necessary to provide that capability.

In addition to the needs of Washington College, the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland could better compete for eco-friendly business ventures, such as wireless Internet providers that could have additional capacity to expand their services to rural areas that are not served by any type of cabled broadband. In Kent County, Maryland much of the geographic area has no support for broadband connectivity. Funding the referenced grant proposal would significantly enhance that opportunity. Washington College lends its whole-hearted support to the grant proposal from the State of Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT), with the Maryland Broadband Cooperative and Howard County's OneMD Consortium, that will provide needed connectivity to this, and other, Community Anchor Institutions.

Sincerely,

Baird Tipson
President

LBT/ac
cc: Drew Van Dopp
FAX: 410-341-6327

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
MEDICAL SYSTEM

250 W. Pratt Street
24th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-6829
www.umms.org

CORPORATE OFFICE

March 16, 2010

W. Patrick Mitchell
President and CEO
Maryland Broadband Cooperative
212 West Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Dear Patrick:

On behalf of The University of Maryland Medical System, I am pleased to provide our support to the State of Maryland Department of Information Technology, OneMD Consortium, and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative in collaborative efforts to extend broadband services throughout the State. These efforts are critically important to the citizens of Maryland in many different aspects to daily life. As you know the Medical System, as a member of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, is actively engaged and interested in broadband services throughout Maryland as a means to extend high quality – cost effective health care services to every community. The use of broadband as a means to facilitate physician to physician and patient to physician communications and services is a priority for the Medical System.

Our efforts depend on high quality bandwidth as the infrastructure that provides new services and care methodologies in a time where cost and access are critically important to everyone. Allowing patients to access there own health information records and provide self service capabilities provides access improvements. Making available patient in-home connections for physicians; in particular specialist, in the management of patients with chronic illness' such as; heart disease, diabetes and obesity related diseases provides the opportunity for more frequent monitoring of these conditions, lowers the cost of care by keeping patient conditions under control, and reduces overhead to both the patient and physician. Furthermore, connecting specialist to community physicians who don't necessarily have access to such specialties for consultation in their communities provides a special service to all communities. Lastly, access to broadband provides for more frequent use of telemedicine services to all communities regardless their size and location. Telemedicine services also improves access to care in a more timely manner and provides for expert intervention in nearly every specialty such as; stroke care, psychiatry, high risk pregnancy, cancer care, cardiac care, critical care, and so many others.

We are just one aspect of the level of service that broadband everywhere can be leveraged. Certainly, increasing the education capabilities and reach to every child from inner-city Baltimore to the most rural parts of Maryland is equally important. Assuring every child has access to continuous learning from home, centers, and schools create an equal environment for all families. This capability also creates special learning environments for those with disabilities and others with special needs.

Once again, let me extend the support of the Medical System in your collaborative effort to seek funding for this very important endeavor which will surely touch the lives of every Maryland citizen.

Kindest regards,

Jon P. Burns
Senior Vice President and
Chief Information Officer

cc: Robert A. Chrencik, President and CEO
University of Maryland Medical System

ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-222-5000 301-970-8644 (WASH) 410-222-5500 (TDD) | Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

March 23, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

It is my pleasure to write this letter offering my enthusiastic support for the One Maryland Broadband Network and the increased opportunities the project will mean for our county's 75,000 students. The current technological infrastructure in many of our schools is woefully inadequate as we move forward in an environment that has rapidly escalating bandwidth needs. At many locations, we are only able to connect using a 768 kbps CIR Verizon T-1 frame relay circuit.

The One Maryland Broadband Network project will allow us to connect all of our schools together and provide additional bandwidth on our internal network and outside our network for Internet access. The enhancements would provide the following:

Instruction:

- Additional bandwidth will allow us to provide distance learning delivery opportunities for students to participate in higher level and regular courses that would otherwise be unavailable to them.
- Additional bandwidth will allow us to centralize more applications.
- Additional Internet bandwidth will allow us to implement more online learning, including streaming audio and video applications. As school systems address the needs of the 21st century student, electronic resources must be available that provide real world connections and "just in time" learning, and promote higher order thinking skills.
- Increasingly, 21st century instructional resources are available in web-based format only. To satisfy school system efforts to meet the instructional needs of our students, additional bandwidth capabilities are imperative.

Administration:

- Our student information and management system is moving to an entirely web-based application.
- Our Human Resources system will be a web-based only application.

- Additional bandwidth will increase our capabilities for remote support of workstations and servers.
- Additional bandwidth will allow us to distribute video over the IP network.
- Additional bandwidth will allow us to consider Voice over IP for our telephone system.

We are currently spending over $750,000.00 per year for Intra-site and Internet access that is less than adequate. At many of our locations connecting with a 768kbps CIR Verizon T-1 frame relay circuit, there are no attractive options for us. The available infrastructure at these sites is prohibitive to higher bandwidth broadband connections. AACPS would have to underwrite substantial construction costs and commit to a long-term agreement to obtain greater bandwidth that in many cases would still not be enough for current and future service requirements.

Today's students expect their educational experiences to mirror the capabilities they often have at home and to prepare them for tomorrow's workforce. These expectations include the ability to communicate and collaborate locally as well as globally. Access to up-to-date information allows students to make accurate and informed decisions about their learning.

If you have any questions please contact Greg Barlow, Chief Information Officer for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, at 410-222-5330.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

KMM/jm

Caroline County Public Schools

204 Franklin Street
Denton, Maryland 21629

Edward W. Shirley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: 410-479-1460
Fax: 410-479-0108
http://cl.k12.md.us

March 11, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Urban,

Caroline County Public School's Office of Instructional Technology was very pleased to learn of your grant initiative to provide higher backbone bandwidth to rural school systems in Maryland. We currently have a WAN backbone that we lease from our Caroline County Government that provides connectivity to our various school and administrative buildings via a combination of direct underground fiber runs and wireless broadband links. Even though the overall bandwidth provided by this mixed patchwork connectivity is currently meeting our bandwidth requirements we project that there will be a time in the near future that it will not.

For growth purposes we would like to expand our backbone bandwidth to gigabit speed for at least our central office to secondary school sites. We are particularly concerned with our secondary school sites because they require greater bandwidth then do the elementary sites for the following reasons:

- Secondary schools house larger student and staff populations.
- They engage in more online activities that are increasingly rich in multimedia content.
- They participate in special online activities such as standardized testing, interactive digital training, etc.
- The student/computer ratio is higher in these buildings.
- These buildings usually contain multiple computer labs of 25-30 computers each that are used for simultaneous online activities.

We are even more concerned about our smaller high school that is literally surrounded by farm fields with no commercial cable television, cell phone or broadband access other than the wireless link we are leasing from the county government. We know it is only a matter of time until a massive electrical or wind storm will damage the onsite tower link resulting in lost connectivity. We feel we need a hardwired solution at this site not only for greater bandwidth but to provide greater dependability.

If your grant provided a direct link between the two secondary high school campus sites via fiber to our central office in Denton then we could keep the wireless links up as backup routes and use them as secondary direct links for the expansion of our distance learning program for our two high schools.

We would like to develop a dual enrollment classroom (Distance Learning) link over our WAN to provide low enrollment equalization between our smaller remote Colonel Richardson High/Middle Campus and North Caroline High School/Career & Technology Center Campus which currently enrolls twice as many students. We would then have a backup link that could be used in the case of a fiber outage but would otherwise serve as a separate distance learning link. This would allow dual enrollment usage to grow without affecting our daily bandwidth available for other WAN purposes.

With our ever-limited budget restraints we know we cannot afford to invest in these physical fiber runs with local funding. Because this is largely a one-time installation cost followed by a relatively minimal annual maintenance investment we feel that it would be a perfect application for your Rural Broadband initiative.

We fully understand that we would have to incur the annual maintenance of these gigabit links and the edge equipment that connects them to our WAN. We would be happy to supply, configure, and maintain the ethernet fiber connection hardware for these gigabit links as a part of annual WAN maintenance.

We truly appreciate your effort to equalize the bandwidth availability in the remote county schools of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Cauffman
Network Specialist for Instructional Technology

Wayne C. Wiley
Supervisor of Instructional Technlogy

Harford County Public Schools

102 S. Hickory Avenue • Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410-838-7300 • Fax 410-893-2478

Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

March 18, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy CIO
State of Maryland
35 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

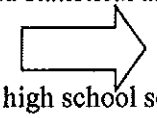
Re: OneMaryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) hereby indicates its support for and intended participation in the ONEMaryland Broadband Network BTOP grant application. Our participation alleviates a critical need for improved access to broadband service in the more rural sections of Harford County. This region of Harford County is served by a small, private cable provider not capable of delivering the service required to help us achieve our core mission of serving and supporting the public schools in the community. In addition, Verizon has limited broadband service, mostly antiquated, cost prohibitive ATM circuits.

Having direct connectivity to Harford County's I-net will significantly upgrade an antiquated wide area network (WAN) constructed of leased frame relay T-1 lines. The current configuration cannot facilitate the following needs required by our school community:

- Internet-based high stakes testing
- Real-time data collection, warehousing and statistical analysis
- Web/Internet intervention applications
- Multi-media content in the classroom



Most are media rich educational tools

- Deliver distance learning between county high school schools
- Real-time safety and security monitoring
- Collapse voice and data onto a single network to realize telecom savings
- Anytime, anywhere professional development delivered by an extensive on-line training catalog of multi-media presentations
- Establish backup disaster recovery sites for intra/inter county governmental agencies

Currently, HCPS' telcom annual charges for limited telcom service are $1.26M. Developing a forward thinking project would address the various learning technologies and initiatives of Harford County Public Schools. These initiatives are imperative to accommodate the BRAC initiative locally, with Aberdeen Proving Ground, and across the State of Maryland. Ultimately it would represent a great opportunity for the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Harford County Public Schools

HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

March 19, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy CIO
State of Maryland
35 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21041

Dear Mr. Urban:

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) would like to offer its support to the team's efforts to obtain stimulus funding to build the One Maryland Broadband Network.

The HCPSS plans to leverage the network to tap into expansive online content and distance learning opportunities in the PreK–12 community. The ability to engage with other Maryland school systems will enable HCPSS students and staff to communicate and collaborate with their peers within Howard County and throughout the state. Access to Maryland colleges and universities online will provide HCPSS students the opportunity to participate in college courses online in their home or at school.

Currently, the bandwidth required to meet this challenge has been too expensive for school systems to afford or not available. The One Maryland Broadband Network will provide the necessary infrastructure to meet current needs and position the HCPSS to meet the challenges for the next several years.

Sincerely,

Theresa Alban

Dr. Theresa R. Alban
Chief Operating Officer
Howard County Public School System

cc: Dr. Sydney Cousin
Mrs. Sandra Erickson

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

215 WASHINGTON AVENUE * CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND 21620 * PHONE 410-778-1595
FAX # 410-778-6193

March 8, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland

The State of Maryland has included Kent County Public Schools in their request for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Funds from this grant would be used to connect Galena Middle School to our board of education with high speed, fiber-based broadband.

Kent County is excited about the prospect of having high-speed network access to Galena Middle School. Galena is a growing community in the northern area of Kent County. Kent County, with 2170 students, is the smallest school system in the state of Maryland. This poses interesting challenges with regards to providing rich, varied opportunities for our students. We struggle to provide our students more than simply the basics in instruction.

One solution to this is to provide online coursework. Another is traditional synchronous distance learning. This would allow for our students to take courses, in conjunction with their peers in another school, and not require two teachers to provide the instruction. Both of these solutions requiré access to high-speed networking.

Currently, KCPS relies on point-to-point wireless links to connect Galena Middle into our Wide Area Network. In the past, these connections were adequate. As demand has risen, we have not been able to keep pace with them. Availability of faster connections has been our problem in the past. T1 lines have been our only alternative solution. Fiber optic cabling would be a true blessing for our middle school students. More access to resources, a greater number of course offerings, and less download wait times would greatly increase our students' learning potential.

A. Barbara Wheeler

Dr. A. Barbara Wheeler
Superintendent

MCPS MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org MARYLAND

March 23, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy State Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
35 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21041

Dear Mr. Urban:

Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) hereby indicates its support for and intended participation in the One Maryland Broadband Network Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program grant application. MCPS has a critical need for improved access to broadband service for elementary school staff and students. Broadband is essential to sustaining the district's commitment to equity by strengthening learning opportunities for a diverse range of learners in inclusive classroom communities. Broadband service also is critical in providing access to rigorous instruction, digital content and curriculum, and learning resources that incorporate multiple representations and entry points into learning and affords various means for students to demonstrate and express their knowledge. In the absence of this proposed network and given the prohibitive expense of comparable private sector service offerings, MCPS is not in a position to purchase sufficient broadband service.

If the One Maryland Broadband Network is constructed and MCPS is connected to the middle-mile infrastructure, anticipated broadband service will facilitate the vital community support, including Broadband education, awareness, training and support for school staff and students. Further, it will interconnect with state databases and other educational institutions in the state of Maryland, allowing us to leverage other educational resources and enhance our ability to offer advanced learning experiences.

At the present time, secondary schools in Montgomery County have access to middle-mile infrastructure which provides 100 megabits per second broadband service, but our elementary schools cannot be provided similar broadband service within the grant time frame without federal funding. Construction of the One Maryland Broadband Network would provide 100 megabits per second broadband service to almost 100 elementary schools and create over 90 jobs.

Thank you for including MCPS as one of your community anchors. Construction of the network would represent a great opportunity for MCPS and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Sherwin A. Collette
Chief Technology Officer

SAC:csa

Prince George's County Public Schools
14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • www.pgcps.org

William R. Hite, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 11, 2009

To Stimulus Grant Coordinator:

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is pleased and excited about the prospect of using Stimulus Funds to construct fiber optic connections to its primary schools and other facilities. This type of investment would provide local jobs, enable future technology implementation to improve the quality and efficiency of education and, in our case, pay for itself through savings in recurring costs in about 10 years.

With these factors in favor of this investment, I am greatly confident that our plans will meet the administration's expressed goals of stimulus spending.

Your consideration of the application is truly appreciated. Thank you!

Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

WRH:WWWJr: dd

Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Educate Encourage Enable
202 Chesterfield Avenue ~ Centreville, MD 21617 ~ Tele: 410-758-2403 ~ Fax: 410-758-8200 ~ www.qacps.k12.md.us

March 12, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

Queen Anne's County Public Schools (QACPS) is excited about the prospect of having nine of its schools, plus its central office linked through fiber optics in order to access 1 Gigabit of Broadband capability. As a public school system that is geographically located at the foot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, QACPS has grown dramatically in the last 10 years. Because of the academic success of our schools and the beauty of the area, many families from the western shore of Maryland have decided to settle in our county which stretches from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to the shores of the Chester River. Historically, our technology needs have been adequate based upon our Wide Area Network connections. However, the increasing need for more broadband in order to satisfy basic online academic applications and state mandated online testing requirements for our increasing student population has become a critical issue in all our schools. Moreover, with the push for students to be able to successfully access online resources that provide a variety of rich multimedia instructional strategies, QACPS finds itself struggling with its basic broadband capability.

Additionally, even though increasing broadband using fiber optics has been a district priority for many years, it has not become a reality. QACPS, like other public school systems, has had to sacrifice a number of critical need areas in order to meet its budgetary obligations. Therefore, our students and teachers struggle and many times find that they are unable to connect and satisfactorily access many of the award-winning academic applications that are available online. Teachers have also found enrolling in online professional courses has not been a positive experience because of slow download time during posting of required assignments and accessibility of course materials.

We are hopeful that this letter of support for the Broadband Stimulus Grant application will assist you in procuring the funds that will help all of our students (prek-12th grade) and professional staff access online resources and courses through a quicker download wait time. Additional time creates additional instruction that can be spent increasing our students' learning potential.

Very Truly Yours,

Carol Williamson

Dr. Carol Williamson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Karl O. Hagelin

Somerset County Public Schools

7982A Tawes Campus Drive
Westover, MD 21871
www.somerset.k12.md.us
Telephone: 410.651.1616
Instructional Fax: 410.651.2931
Administrative Fax: 410.651.3566

Dr. Karen-Lee N. Brofee
Superintendent of Schools
Douglas A. Bloodsworth, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent

March 11, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Mr. Urban,

Somerset County Schools strongly supports the OneMaryland Broadband Network's application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As part of this grant application, OneMaryland's Broadband Network will be running fiber optic connections to seven schools within Somerset County. There are many parts of Somerset County where dial-up access is the only choice for Internet service. The Maryland plan is to create a fiber optic backbone throughout the area will allow current and future internet service providers to offer vastly improved telecommunications/internet services in an affordable and sustainable manner. These improved services will benefit private citizens, local businesses, education, healthcare providers, and local government.

Pending availability of funds, Somerset County Public Schools commits to purchase at least $14,000 worth of equipment necessary to connect these locations during the grant funding period of September 2010 through September 2013. This equipment will be purchased from the local operating budget.

The Somerset County Public School system asks for your support for the OneMaryland Broadband Network's Grant Application now being evaluated by the US Department of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Ed. D., Superintendent
Somerset County Public Schools

Cc: Nancy Smoker

The Board of Education of Worcester County

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
6270 Worcester Highway
Newark, Maryland 21841-9746
www.worcesterk12.com

Telephone: (410) 632-5000
Fax: (410) 632-0364

DR. JON M. ANDES
Superintendent of Schools

EDWARD BARBER
Assistant Superintendent
For Administration

DR. RICHARD T. WALKER
Assistant Superintendent
For Instruction

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GARRY L. MUMFORD

DONNIE L. SHOCKLEY

SARA D. THOMPSON

March 12, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

The Worcester County Public School System supports the OneMaryland Broadband Network's application for ARRA Stimulus funding to provide an advanced broadband network to Worcester County.

The plans to construct a fiber optic backbone throughout Maryland's rural counties will allow current and future internet service providers to offer vastly improved telecommunications/internet services in an affordable and sustainable manner. These improved services will benefit private citizens, local businesses, education, healthcare providers, and local government.

The Worcester County Public School System asks for your support for the OneMaryland Broadband Network ARRA Grant Application now being evaluated by the US Department of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,

Jon M. Andes
Superintendent of Schools

JMA/dpb

Anne Arundel County Public Library

Library Headquarters
5 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-222-7371 • www.aacpl.net

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy CIO, State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

March 16, 2010

Re: OneMaryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban,

Anne Arundel County Public Library System offers its full support to Anne Arundel County's request for broadband stimulus funding through the National Technical Information Administration.

The Anne Arundel County Public Library is dedicated to providing access to information. Our databases and carefully selected websites are chosen to meet the needs of our county's citizens. However, to provide access in the library's fifteen branches, the library needs adequate network resources. The existing bandwidth was sufficient five years ago but the changes in technology leave the library without the bandwidth to provide consistent access to many of its subscription databases and Internet resources. To remedy the situation, the library is looking to connect to the County's fiber network.

Currently, 4 of the library's 15 Branches are part of the County's fiber network. The other Branches are connected through Verizon T1 lines with greatly reduced bandwidth costing the library approximately $40,000 annually. Having direct connectivity to the Anne Arundel County fiber network will significantly enhance the Internet capabilities for library patrons as indicated below.

It is imperative that we increase our bandwidth as the public demand for more access skyrockets. Job seekers are using the Library's PCs to search for jobs, submit employment applications and take tests. Students are flocking to the library to do research, to take on-line courses and exams. There is an increased demand to access the wealth of medical information on the internet as well as the library's subscription databases. Resources increasingly are often delivered via formats such as video which require additional bandwidth. County residents are turning to the library for many of the collaborative resources on the Internet from basic email to social networking sites. Frequently, from the time a branch opens until it closes, all of their computers are in use. In Anne Arundel County, the library is often the only place where residents can access the internet and online resources for free.

The demand is great and so is the need for adequate network resources. With the addition of broadband access, the library would be able to provide the quality and consistency of service our users need now and in the foreseeable future. The benefits of using stimulus money to connect the library to the county's fiber are quite significant, if we can help the job seeker find work, the student achieve and others find the information they need.

Sincerely,

Marion W. Francis

Marion W. Francis
Administrator

Marion W. Francis, Library Administrator • mfrancis@aacpl.net • 410.222.7234

Calvert LIBRARY
imagination • information • inspiration

Patricia P. Hofmann, Director • phofmann@somd.lib.md.us
850 Costley Way • Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-0291 • 301-855-1862
calvert.lib.md.us

April 12, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban,
Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for your application for ARRA funds to provide high-speed internet fiber to difficult-to-reach rural areas.

While the Calvert Library currently has access to 200Mb of internet bandwidth through Sailor, we can only access that at the Prince Frederick location. Our branches must rely on cable modem service (16Mb download and 2Mb upload) to connect to the main building so that limits their usable bandwidth significantly. At this time, cable is the fastest, most cost-effective method we have. With the fiber connections proposed by this grant, all the libraries, not just the main one at Prince Frederick, will be able to take advantage of the Sailor bandwidth. While there is higher bandwidth available, it is not economically feasible for us to purchase it.

At present, we have to pay attention to download and upload speeds, particularly at our branch locations and will probably soon have to throttle some applications that stream video and perform other high bandwidth actions. This will limit our customers' access to the internet and further widen the digital divide. I suspect that future library services will depend on high speed internet access even more than they do currently...perhaps we will be circulating more materials such as movies through our internet connections, perhaps there will be more online community learning and engagement. Whatever the use, it seems unlikely that the internet will go away. Demand will only continue to grow. This grant will support the Calvert Library's ability to grow with that demand and therefore, it is with great fervor that I write this letter of support for your application.

Sincerely,

Robyn Truslow
Public Relations Coordinator
IT Supervisor

Cecil County
Public Library

3/12/2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

The Cecil County Public Library supports your grant application for the build out of a fiber optic network in Cecil County which would include branch libraries. Branches of the Cecil County Public Library have traditionally served as "anchor institutions" in their seven communities.

The establishment of improved telecommunications infrastructure benefits library users, the general public, the local communities and Cecil County. The library will continue to work in partnership with Cecil County government, Cecil County Public Schools, the Sailor Network and others to provide the most cost effective library communications network possible.

We look forward to being involved in your grant proposal and planning as this project moves forward, and strongly support your request.

Sincerely,

Lee O'Brien

Ms. Lee O'Brien
Associate Director

301 Newark Avenue, Elkton, Maryland 21921-5441 Denise Davis, *Director*
phone 410.996.1055 fax 410.996.5604 internet www.cecil.ebranch.info

Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County
6 North Second Street
Oakland, MD 21550
Phone (301) 334-3996

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Urban,

This letter is written in support of the State of Maryland's BTOP grant application to connect fiber optic broadband connections to anchor institutions, such as our library.

We would be interested in getting the fiber connections to four of our branches: Oakland (Main Branch), Accident, Grantsville and Friendsville. We realize that our Kitzmiller branch is too distant to be considered at this time.

We currently have T-1 broadband internet access through the Sailor Network and would continue to use their network.

Sincerely,

Cathy A. Ashby

Cathy Ashby, Director

Allen Dunson

Allen Dunson, System Administatror

Ruth Enlow Library
6 N. Second St.
Oakland, MD 21550
301-334-3996

HARFORD COUNTY Public Library
www.HCPLonline.info

March 16, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to encourage you to support and fund the ONEMaryland Broadband Network application. Libraries across the country have seen huge increases in computer usage in the last few years. Harford County Public Library has seen these increases reflected locally at all of our branches. Since the downturn in the economy our libraries are busier than ever; circulation is up almost 10% since last year and virtual visits are up 99% over the last fiscal year. We had 455,815 people log on to our 342 branch computers last year. In addition, all branches have wireless access and we are seeing very heavy usage of people bringing in their own laptops. Customers are coming to our branches to look for and apply for jobs on line; to write resumes and apply for unemployment insurance. Many times these people have minimal computer skills and our librarians train them on how to access these resources and fill out applications. Many of these people have lost home internet connectivity because they are unable to afford the service anymore. Most government and private industry forms are now available only on the web. In many of our branches we have people lined up waiting to use our computers from the time we open until closing. In addition to the economically based usage, we have students of all ages doing research for homework assignments and adults (including senior citizens) looking for information that ranges from entertainment type queries to very serious medical research. Many of our most avid users are teenagers who are savvy enough to use Web 2.0 applications.

All of this computer usage requires bandwidth. The existing T-1 connections in our branches are not adequate to support demand and interactive information on the web continues to increase. Many times the computers are very slow or freeze because of the heavy usage and bandwidth intensive applications being accessed by numerous customers at one time, including wireless access. Looking at our bandwidth data, we find that it is completely consumed most afternoons. There is a dire need to extend our existing network to provide high speed broadband services and to provide a network which can meet the current and future needs of our customers.

Harford County Public Library has long standing partnerships with the school system and local government agencies. We have worked together to provide the best possible services to our constituents. Harford County Public Library is in support of local effort and will have full benefit of the One Maryland Broadband Network Project. Again, we would strongly encourage you to fund this grant.

Thank you for your attention,

Audra Caplan

Audra Caplan
Director

1221-A Brass Mill Road, Belcamp, Maryland 21017
410-273-5600 • Balto. Metro. 410-575-6761 • 410-838-3749 • TTY 410-838-3371 • FAX 410-273-5606

Howard County Library

inform • inspire • interact • educate

August 12, 2009

Mr. Ira Levy
One Maryland Broadband Consortium, Chair
8930 Stanford Boulevard
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Dear Mr. Levy:

An educational institution delivering equal opportunity in education for everyone who lives and works in Howard County, we write to convey our enthusiastic support for the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant application that Howard County is leading with 10 other jurisdictions, known as the One Maryland Broadband Plan (OMB Plan).

As enacted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), BTOP grant funding is available to create regional fiber networks to connect community anchor institutions – such as public schools, libraries, hospitals, and health care providers – to enhance broadband capacity.

The OMB consortium currently includes the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Charles County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. This coordinated approach to build and extend local networks seeks to leverage the demonstrated success of existing operational and institutional networks located in the greater Baltimore and Washington regions. In doing so, the OMB Plan would provide public school systems, libraries, and community colleges enhanced high speed internet access through a shared regional network – a feat never before accomplished. This represents a profound benefit to all educational institutions throughout Central Maryland, which will be afforded greater access to information and content from many educational sources, including Maryland Public Television.

In addition, each member of the OMB consortium has demonstrated the ability to successfully administer cable and fiber networks by effectively balancing public interests with the realities of private markets. Therefore, the collective successes of the OMB consortium will provide an excellent foundation for expanding broadband access, creating jobs, and stimulating investment in Maryland.

You have our full support as a partner in this venture, and we look forward to becoming an active participant in the project. Thank you for your consideration of the OMB Plan and its application for BTOP grant funding under ARRA.

Sincerely,

Valerie J. Gross
CEO

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045 www.hclibrary.org 410.313.7750 F 410.313.7742 TDD 410.313.7740

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
WWW.PGCMLS.INFO

6532 Adelphi Road • Hyattsville, MD 20782-2098
301-699-3500 • FAX 301-985-5494 • TTY 301-808-2061

Mr. Nate E. Archey
Prince George's County Cable Administrator
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Nate:

I certainly endorse your efforts to secure economic stimulus funding for the One Maryland initiative to improve and extend the county's INET communications network.

Early in its inception, INET provisioned broadband access to the branches of PGCMLS excluding only Baden. PGCMLS successfully leveraged this capacity to bring high speed Internet connectivity to residents in underserved communities throughout the county.

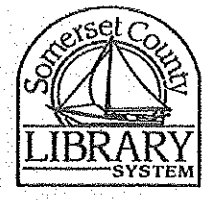
In these difficult times this has become a lifeline for our customers to find and apply for jobs, fend off foreclosure and eviction, develop computer skills and pursue opportunities found only on the Web. Providing a means for people to secure themselves to the economic mainstream will drive the recovery only now, at last, in view.

PGCMS has scheduled to break ground for two new branches at South Bowie and Seat Pleasant in FY 2010. Beyond providing desktop computers and wifi networking for public access, we plan to provide servers and computers as platforms for hands-on training and electronic community gatherings of all stripes. This too, will foster economic activity to benefit the county and its residents. Only with INET to provide the broadband connections and bandwidth to support these branches will make this possible.

I can testify to INET's readiness to put this funding to good and immediate use. Please let me know if I can enlist others to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Gannon
Associate Director



SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Crisfield · Ewell · Princess Anne

March 16, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

I am pleased to offer this letter in full support of your Broadband Grant Application.

This project will be especially beneficial to the rural counties in Maryland where the digital divide still exists. Somerset County has just over 26,000 residents and 12.7 percent of families and 18.7 percent of individuals live below the poverty level. Industry and job opportunities are scarce. Thirty percent of our county's population over the age of 24 have not graduated from high school. Our young adults can feel particularly isolated. Broadband Internet services will allow our younger population to research colleges, apply for scholarships, participate in high definition video and audio distance learning, explore job openings, and ultimately better prepare for their future.

Public libraries are often the first point of entry for new technology users. The fiber will increase our ability to support and educate the underserved members of our community. We will be able to expand our basic computing, resume, and job searching classes. Our increased capacity will also provide easier access to government services, health care resources, employment assistance, and improved educational opportunities.

We are excited to partner in this beneficial project that will impact the lives of our entire community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ranck

Jennifer Ranck
Director

11767 Beechwood Street · Princess Anne, MD 21853
P: 410.651.0852 · F: 410.651.1388
www.somelibrary.org

"A world of information...right here in Somerset County."

Worcester County Library

Books are just the beginning.

March 12, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

The Worcester County Library is a small public library system on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our branch library that houses the administrative offices in Snow Hill is the one facility in our system that has a direct broadband connection to Sailor – Maryland's public Information network.

The grant request by the OneMaryland Broadband Network presents us with an opportunity to get fiber-optic cable into our other four branch locations throughout the county. At present we are paying two different telecommunication companies for high bandwidth access to the Internet at those libraries. The ability to connect at greater bandwidth and significantly lower cost is an appealing prospect and would allow us to divert funds back to direct service to our customers.

We support, therefore, this grant request and urge you to give it careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Thomas

Mark A. Thomas
Director

6 Pages

Withheld in their entirety pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4 (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))

March 24, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
65 Calvert Street
Annapolis ,MD 21401

RE: One Maryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

I am writing to you representing Cyan Optics. Cyan is an OEM for the latest generation of Packet-Optical Transport solutions, and we provide significant cost savings and operational benefits for regional "Middle Mile" type networks. Today we supply several statewide network service providers with their optical networking platform to support their TDM, Packet and Wavelength Services requirements.

The purpose of this letter is to express our interest and support of the One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) initiative. This effort will serve to benefit the region immensely for generations to come. Cyan is a privately-held company based in Petaluma, CA, and we develop and manufacture our products here in the US.

Please accept this letter in support of the OMBN application. We look forward to a productive relationship that will aid both OMBN and Cyan in our mutual quests to deliver affordable broadband services to the residents and businesses of Maryland, to foster job growth in our respective communities, and to provide a lasting spark to our nation's economic development.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Walsh
Director of Sales – Broadband Stimulus
Cyan
www.cyanoptics.com

TRUE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

I am writing to you representing True Communications, Inc. True Comm is a provider of IP based voice, video and data solutions currently operating in the Washington metropolitan area.

The purpose of this letter is express our interest in connecting our IP based solutions to the One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) "middle mile" network. True Comm is currently leading the implementation of Verizon FiOS service in apartment complexes and small business locations throughout the metro area. Our engineering and installation team has unparalleled experience and expertise in the deployment of fiber and cable solutions in every environment.

True Comm is certified in the design and installation of many unified communications based platforms including Cisco, NEC and Polycom. We have expertise in the deployment of converged voice solutions in many enterprise environments including an ongoing nationwide deployment for the Internal Revenue Service. True Comm is also a certified provider of IP based video based Health, Corrections and Education solutions. We have the expertise and solutions to connect a patient to a doctor, an inmate to his attorney or his family or a mother with her new born child to a family member anywhere there is internet connectivity.

True Comm has expertise in the design and installation of building automation systems which when implemented allow for the monitoring and management of building control systems. For example imagine the ability to view the current power utilization of all county operated buildings from one web accessible location, with that interface having the ability to optimize all utilities for the entire portfolio resulting in the savings of tax dollars for everyone.

Please accept this letter in support of the OMBN application. We look forward to engaging a relationship that will aid True Communications and OMBN in our mutual quests to bring affordable broadband services to Maryland residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

23475 Rock Haven Way ▪ Suite 255 ▪ Dulles, VA 20166 ▪ Phone: 571 313-5219 ▪ Fax: 571 313-5225

10394 Launcelot Lane,Columbia, Md 21044
Tel 410-884-9365 Mobile 443-812-0215

March 19, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban:

Telecom, Utility & Regulatory Consulting, LLC is pleased to submit this letter to express our support for the One Maryland Broadband Network application under Round 2 of NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). As we understand the scope of the application, it covers the entire State of Maryland and will involve construction of middle mile networks across the state. The project will serve the important goal of providing a facility to enable greater competitiveness in last mile broadband offerings for both residential and business services. Such competition is essential for achievement of the BTOP's goals of providing more affordable broadband services and will make it possible for Maryland to support the National Broadband Plan's expressed mission of universal broadband access.

In addition, the One Maryland Broadband Network proposal will serve to connect key anchor institutions throughout the state including schools, libraries, medical facilities and police, fire and emergency medical systems, along with state and Federal agencies throughout Maryland and in the National Captial region

As a Maryland-based firm, Telecom, Utility and Regulatory Consulting , LLC joins with its nationwide collaborators including Dr. Alan Pearce of Information Age Economics (a DC-based consultancy) and MediaBiz, a Denver-based market intelligence firm to offer its support for the Maryland One Proposal. As tangible evidence of this commitment, we have agreed to provide pro bono consulting services and broadband market data in support of the proposal. These services and data are valued at $15,000 and represent and in-kind contribution on the part of the Maryland's proposal submission.

We believe that this proposal from One Maryland Broadband Network is essential for the State of Maryland and we recommend that NTIA approve the organization's grant.

.

Very truly yours,

Barry E. Goodstadt, Ph.D.
Principal

Freedom Wireless Broadband
Connecting the future
www.fwbnet.net
1-866-457-FWBI

March 23, 2010

Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Dear Mr. Urban:

The purpose of this letter is document the understanding and agreement between Freedom Wireless Broadband, LLC (FWB) and One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) in regard to interconnection and collaboration between our networks. As you know, FWB is a Wireless Internet Service Provider operating in Carroll County Maryland. We will use OMBN dark fiber interconnection in Hampstead, Finksburg, Eldersburg, Mount Airy, Westminster and Taneytown for our network traffic back haul to an ISP POP. In turn, FWB agrees to provide last mile connectivity where needed to augment the OMBN network service provisioning. We understand that OMBN may require connectivity in locations outside Carroll County. FWB is able to provide our services in the neighboring counties of Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Frederick and will consider other locations should the need arise.

- Interconnection with OMBN will enable FWB to obtain middle mile connectivity that will reduce our cost of doing business and result in higher speed, lower cost services to the county residents, businesses and community anchor institutions. FWB will
- FWB will enable last miles services to OMBN constituents enabling broadband service for residents in areas of Carroll County that otherwise may not receive broadband service.
- FWB's wireless last mile connectivity will reduce OMBN's cost to provide service to Critical Community Institutions in locations that are "off-net" and expensive to reach with a fiber-based technology.

We at Freedom Wireless Broadband look forward to working with One Maryland Broadband Network in our mutual quests to bring affordable broadband services to Maryland residents and businesses community institutions.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Hall

Bruce P. Hall
Partner, CTO – Freedom Wireless Broadband, LLC

cc:
Thomas Hankinson
Mark Moore
Brian Oleksa

qis.net
[quantum internet services, inc.]

August 3, 2009

Ms. Lori Sherwood
One Maryland Broadband Consortium
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Sherwood,

Quantum Internet Services, Inc. ("QIS") and its sister company Quantum Telecommunications, Inc. ("Quantel") are interested in partnering with the One Maryland Broadband Consortium. It is our understanding that the Consortium is looking to build middle-mile fiber networks in order to stimulate broadband growth. QIS / Quantel is an ISP and a CLEC that primarily services residential and small business customers throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. We are the area's oldest independently owned and operated Internet service, having been in business since 1995. Our largest concentrations of customers are located in Carroll, Baltimore, and Harford counties. Our broadband offerings consist primarily of DSL and T-1 services in the 1.5Mbps to 3.0Mbps range. We have found it difficult to offer higher speeds primarily due to the lack of low-cost, high-speed middle mile backhaul networks. If we were to have access to backhaul with Gigabit capacity, we feel that we could offer speed of 20Mbps or more to our customers. Currently our only option for backhaul bandwidth where the majority of our customer base resides is Verizon. We would love to see a viable alternative to Verizon that can provide us with the Gigabit capacities we need.

We hope that your consortium obtains the funding you need to bring a high-speed middle-mile network to all of Maryland. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your network further, feel free to call me direct at 410-982-0010 or e-mail kevin@qis.net.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Brown
President / CEO

2975B Manchester Rd.
Manchester, MD 21102
P: 410.239.6920
F: 410.239.0820
www.qis.net

To Lori Sherwood (via electronic mail):

Dear Lori,

Litecast is very interested in working with you and the One Maryland Broadband Consortium as partners should you receive federal NTIA funds. We understand that this will be a nationally competitive process and as a Maryland based company we will help as best we can to see that Maryland receives adequate NTIA funds.

By way of background, Litecast is a local Maryland small business with Maryland ownership. At present, Litecast has installed and maintains up to 144 count fiber optic cable throughout a network of approximately 150 linear miles in Baltimore, Maryland and the surrounding counties. In addition, Litecast sells high-speed gigabit Ethernet internet access across its own fiber network. Litecast obtains internet access from multiple Tier One carriers including XO, Level III, and Cogent Communications.

Litecast employs up to 16 full and part-time employees, all of whom are residents of the State of Maryland. In operation since 2001, Litecast is a limited liability corporation with offices in Baltimore City. Litecast is cash flow positive, maintains a solid financial base from which to grow, and is currently servicing most of the major corporate, financial, and healthcare institutions in Baltimore.

Litecast is always looking for productive ways to grow our network to service our Maryland customers. We are actively planning growth towards the areas of Matyland that are currently broadband deficient, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with you in bringing broadband access to these areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this funding. Please let me know if you need any more information or assistance from Litecast.

Mark R. Wagner
Managing Partner
Mark@litecast.net
443-677-6728

BROADSTRIPE

We're on a mission.

August 3, 2009

Mr. John Lyons
Cable Television Administrator
Arundel Center, MS-1335
44 Calvert Street, Room 315
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: One Maryland Broadband

Dear Mr. Lyons:

This letter shall serve as conformation that Broadstripe would be interested in participating in expanding service to the Harwood, MD area as a part of the One Maryland Broadband project.

If you have any questions about the above please do not hesitate to call me on 410-729-9570.

Sincerely,

John Bjorn
SVP & General Manager

406 Headquarters Dr., Suite 201 • Millersville, MD 21108 • p.410.987.9300 • f.410.987.4890
www.broadstripe.com

SMECO
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

1-888-440-3311
P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637
www.smeco.coop

People. Power. Progress.

March 17, 2010

Mr. William Patrick Mitchell
President & CEO
Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc.
1502 D Pemberton Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

As the President & CEO of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO), this letter will affirm our support to Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (MDBC) in its participation in Round 2 of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

As previously pledged, SMECO will lease up to six (6) fiber strands, where available, for MDBC to develop a contiguous fiber network throughout Southern Maryland.

Our customers routinely inquire if we can assist in high-speed Internet access to the unserved and underserved within our service area. Through MDBC's mission, plans, and efforts to date, SMECO is committed to working with MDBC to expand Broadband access in Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Austin J. Slater, Jr.
President & CEO

AJS/TT/tmk

cc: Tom Tudor

STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE INC.

March 22, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy State CIO
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Urban,

Strategic Technology Institute, Inc. (STi) is very interested in partnering with One Maryland Broadband Network upon receipt of stimulus funding from the NTIA. We have been in contact with Montgomery County, Howard County and Senator Mikulski's office for close to a year. We are impressed with the progress and direction that the One Maryland Broadband Consortium has taken to accomplish this directive from President Obama.

This is a major undertaking supporting the counties within the state. Again, STi's capabilities, experience and the quality team that we represent will support One Maryland Broadband Network in every aspect of this project through successful completion. STi's Team includes:

- Engineering Design
- Systems integration
- Software implementation
- Telecommunications and information technology expertise
- Broadband OEM
- Experienced project management and consulting
- Federal grant experience. SBA certified
- Experience at the Federal, State and Local levels

Our Team can provide the full range of services, from independent state-of-the-art broadband mapping, to grant writing assistance, to next-generation broadband solutions.

STi is a Small Disadvantaged Business located in Rockville, Maryland. STi specializes in Engineering Services, Information Technology, Risk Analysis, Safety and Program Management.

The STi Team is prepared to work closely with One Maryland Broadband Network to help you provide the optimum and most viable solutions for all of the residents, businesses, and municipalities and government organizations you represent.

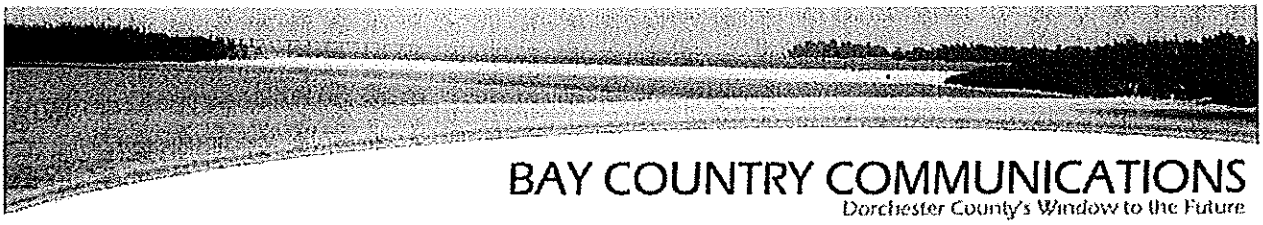
1 Sedgwick Lane • Rockville, MD 20852-3636 • Voice 301.770.7790 • Fax 301.770.4304
6000 Executive Blvd. Suite 205 • Rockville, MD 20852-3813 • Voice 301.770.7077 • Fax 301.881.8488

We look forward to working with you and One Maryland Broadband Network in this exciting, but critical NTIA BTOP program.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Barry Levin
Business Development Manager



March 15, 2010

Patrick Mitchell
President & CEO
Maryland Broadband Cooperative Inc
212 W Main St Suite 304
Salisbury MD 21801

To whom it may concern,

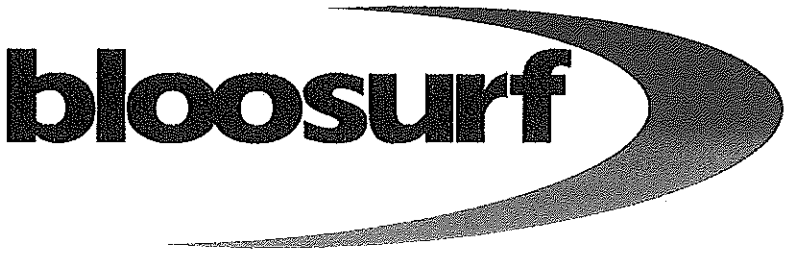
We would like to express our support for the State of Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Round 2 BTOP Grant Application. We are an active member of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative who is participating as a sub-applicant in this proposed project.

As a small Internet Service Provider in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, we are very aware of the challenges being presented to rural areas in creating a sustainable fiber optic infrastructure. We fully support any project that can connect us with more reasonably priced bandwidth so that we can in turn connect more of our underserved residents. We also understand the need to link our Community Anchor Institutions, such as the Dorchester County 911 Center, so that they may better provide services to our citizens.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the State of Maryland DoIT application and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Best Regards,

Scott Shilling
Bay Country Communications Inc
502 Maryland Ave
Cambridge MD 21613



March 17, 2010

Patrick Mitchell
President & CEO
Maryland Broadband Cooperative Inc
212 W. Main Street, Suite 304
Salisbury, MD 21801

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our support for the State of Maryland Department Information Technology Round 2 BTOP Grant Application. We are a member of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative and support the continued expansion of the Coop's fiber optic infrastructure.

As an internet service provider and network operator in Worcester County, we support expansion of the Coop's fiber optic network on the Eastern Shore and throughout the State of Maryland in order to connect more anchor institutions, businesses and residences to last mile providers.

We urge you to support the State's application and expand broadband penetration in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Paul Carliner
Bloosurf LLC
1731 Broad St.
Pocomoke City, MD 21851

EASTON UTILITIES

201 North Washington Street, P.O. Box 1189, Easton, Maryland 21601
Telephone (410) 822-6110 Fax (410) 822-0743
www.eastonutilities.com

Patrick Mitchell
President & CEO
Maryland Broadband Co-Operative, Inc.
212 W. Main St.
Suite 304
Salisbury, MD 21801

March 17, 2010

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am writing in support of the application by the State of Maryland Department of Information Technology to construct 250 miles of new Fiber-Optic Backbone in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland and Maryland's Eastern Shore. This project is critical to improving Internet access across the state, particularly in under-served areas.

Easton Utilities is a not-for-profit, municipally owned Internet Service Provider on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Among our customers are a number of Community Anchor Institutions, including a 911 center, police, fire department, airport, regional medical facility and public school system.

Easton Utilities provides a fiber-optic network to the Memorial Hospital at Easton and nine local facilities in the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). This network allows doctors in our area to send critical medical data to one another at 100MB speeds. We are working to help Memorial Hospital's doctors connect with doctors in other UMMS facilities in the state.

The proposed network would support many benefits to our community including:

- Connecting two Eastern Shore hospitals to the rest of the UMMS network;
- Providing dedicated, high-speed Internet access to all of the Talbot County schools and Talbot County Free libraries as part of their own, secure data network and;
- Bringing the cost of wholesale Internet access in our area inline with the prices that urban and suburban ISPs pay.

Again, on behalf of the residents of Easton, I want to thank President Obama's administration and the Maryland Delegation for their leadership in improving our nation's Internet infrastructure. Moreover, I support this application to improve infrastructure throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey F. Oxnam
Vice President of Operations

FIBERPLUS

August 3rd, 2009

Howard County
Department of Tec. & Communication Servs
8930 Ascend One Bldg.
Columbia, MD 21045

Attn: Ira Levy, Director, Technology & Communication Services

RE: One Maryland Broadband Consortium Application Letter

Dear Mr. Levy,
FIBERPLUS, Inc. is interested in participating in the One Maryland Broadband Consortium project. FIBERPLUS, Inc. has an extensive history with Howard County, having completed a variety of projects throughout the course of our relationship. We are a long standing BICSI Platinum member and the Designated Cabling and Wiring Services contractor for the State of Maryland. FPI is a low voltage integrator that can design, install, terminate and test fiber optic and copper communications cabling including Inside Premise and Outside Plant Telecommunications including OSP construction. Having provided complete cabling solutions for large projects such as colleges, schools, military and local/state/federal government facilities, FIBERPLUS, Inc. has earned a reputation as the premier low voltage integrator in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Sincerely,

Justin Green
Business Developer

FREEDOM TELECOM SERVICES

Dear One Maryland Broadband Consortium,

As a small international optical technology company based in Maryland we believe that we are well positioned to the Maryland Broadband Consortium to build and extend local networks, as well as leverage the success of existing operational institutional networks, located in the greater Baltimore and Washington regions. All of our suppliers are based in Maryland, and all of our vehicles are titled, tagged and were purchased in Maryland.

We currently employ 13 field engineers that service clients in Canada, the Caribbean and throughout North America. Our client list includes Verizon, Rogers Communications, Puerto Rican Telephone, Centennial Communications, AT&T and Verizon Wireless. If we work with the Consortium we would definitely hire a number of additional technical resources in order to support the project. As a full range telecommunications contractor, we are able to offer and fulfill your fiber optic, copper and coaxial cable contracting needs with our team of experts in following areas:

- **Aerial**- Our aerial construction department is known for their exceptional performance involving strand placement. Plant types include copper, co-axial and fiber optic cables. Our aerial construction department work includes Pole Transfer, Strand Placement, Cooper and Fiber Placement, Anchor Placement, New Construction, Rebuild/Upgrade, Testing Activation.

- **Underground** – FTS offers underground construction services that ensure quality and cost savings while minimizing risk to public- and private-sector clients. Our broad engineering resources provide a one-stop shop for the client as well as an instant resource to the project manager in the field, allowing us to seamlessly deliver projects to clients on time and within budget.

- **Inside Plant**- Design and installation of Fiber Optic Networks, Fiber Optic Cabling and Terminating, Pre manufactured and Customized Fiber, Optic Jumpers, Fiber Panels, Independent Testing and Certifications, Fiber Raceway, Fiber Inner Duct, Wall mount and Free standing Cabinets and Racks, Fiber Optic Fusion, 24 Hour Emergency Restoration, Cable Testing(Otdr) (Power Meter), Cable Tray and Raceways.

- **Outside Plant**- Provide complete turn-key Outside Plant Services , Installation of Fiber Optic Cabling, Fiber Optic Cabling and Connectorizing, Reel Testing, Testing and Certifications, Fiber Optic Fusion, Cable Testing(Otdr) (Power Meter), 24 hour on call support.

Let us know if you would like more information on our engineering team and I hope to work with the consortium in the future so please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Brett C. Hill

107 Mount Carmel Road, Suite 104 · Parkton, Maryland 21120 · 443-271-2900 (O) · 443-541-8422 (F)

3701 E. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

Bob Gruber RCDD/NTS
Account Manager
Phone 410-342-5500
Direct 443-573-3131
Fax 410-342-7153
Email robert.gruber@gbe.com

August 3, 2008

Ira Levy
Director of technology and Communication Services
Howard County
Department of Tec. & Communication Servs
8930 Ascend One Bldg.
Columbia, MD 21045

RE: One Maryland Broadband Consortium Application Letter

Mr. Levy,

Graybar would be interested in participating in the Maryland Broadband Consortium.

Our capabilities are as follows:

Graybar can help by providing pre-deployment engineering support in all areas of broadband deployments from content inception at the Headend through protected backbone transport and ultimately to delivery of broadband, voice, RF/IPTV services at the access point at the home/MDU and business via active Ethernet or the latest PON-passive optical networking technologies. We are serving many customers in the service provider arena and can lend a great deal of real world street knowledge in order to help our customers avoid the many stumbling blocks that some manufacturers gloss over in their efforts to sell product. All of the above with inventory and logistical support that nobody can match adds up to a very compelling reason to team up with Graybar in any municipal, service provider or utility broadband delivery project.

Graybar, a Fortune 500 company, specializes in supply chain management services and is a leading North American distributor of high-quality components, equipment and materials for a number of industries. With more than $5.25 billion in revenue (2007), Graybar employs approximately 8,400 men and women at more than 250 distribution centers throughout the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. As one of North America's largest employee-owned companies, Graybar has the power and stability of a big company coupled with the integrity and drive of a neighborhood business. Established in 1869, Graybar procures, warehouses, and delivers just about any kind of electrical or communications and data product, component, or

related service to its customers. Graybar stocks and sells hundreds of thousands of items from thousands of manufacturers.
If a customer needs an end-to-end solution for a lighting project, switchgear upgrade, a local or wide area network, or even a half-mile of electrical conduit, Graybar has it, and we deliver it when and where it is needed.
Through its distribution network and value-added services, including kitting and integrated solutions, Graybar is helping its customers to power and network their facilities with speed, intelligence and efficiency. By adding sophisticated logistics and project management to its operations, Graybar has become a vital link in America's supply chain.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C Gruber
Account Manager

KCI
CONVERGENT
TECHNOLOGIES

DESIGN • BUILD • COMMUNICATIONS • INFRASTRUCTURE

8310 Guilford Road, Suite B • Columbia, MD 21046 • Phone 410-309-7902 • Fax 410-309-1089

August 3, 2009

Rhonda M. Neubauer
Howard County
Department of Technology & Communication Services
8930 Ascend One Bldg.
Columbia, MD 21045

RE: One Maryland Broadband Consortium Letter of Interest, Howard County Middle Mile Application

Ms. Neubauer,
KCI Convergent Technologies would like to express our interest in participating with Howard County and the One Maryland Broadband Consortium for a Middle Mile Deployment Application. As a local firm with significant presence, knowledge, and experience with Howard County Government, we understand the importance of improving broadband access and connectivity to the Howard County community. We look forward to partnering with Howard County on this significant and critical project.

KCI provides turnkey design and installation services for copper- and fiber-structured cabling solutions, outside plant services and third-party construction management and inspection services for voice and data communications projects. Our clients include commercial, institutional, federal, state and private sector organizations. By combining years of practical experience with our advanced technical skills, we deliver detailed, customer-specific technology infrastructure design and implementation. Our industry-certified engineers, installers and technicians have access to state-of-the-art design, installation and testing equipment. We have established partnerships with industry-leading manufacturers and distributors to ensure the highest quality standards-based solutions and timely delivery of material and equipment.

KCI offers designating, design, permitting, installation and inspection services for the expansion and development of local and long-haul distribution infrastructure. In addition to preparing construction documents, our engineering teams conduct corridor studies, site acquisitions, and right-of-way negotiations. Our commitment to quality, safety and customer satisfaction ensures successful cost-effective installations and long-term customer relationships.

Recently, KCI has provided Howard County with fiber infrastructure services and solutions for their internal networks including the County's Office of Public Safety.

Our extensive project experience encompasses hundreds of miles of voice and data transmission lines. We can provide Howard County, in conjunction with the Consortium, with turnkey design and installation services to increase broadband connectivity and communications access across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Ken Harmel

Ken Harmel, RCDD
Vice President

MOTOROLA

Mr. Ira Levy
Director, Howard County
Department of Technology & Communication Services
8930 Ascend One Bldg.
Columbia, MD 21045

August 3, 2009

RE: One Maryland Broadband Consortium Letter of Interest, Howard County Middle Mile Application

Dear Mr. Levy:

Motorola, the Howard County Public Safety Communications System provider, in a teaming/partnering relationship with KCI Convergent Technologies would like to express our interest in participating with Howard County and the One Maryland Broadband Consortium for a Middle Mile Deployment Application. As two locally based firms with significant presence, knowledge, and experience with Howard County Government, we understand the importance of improving broadband access and connectivity to Howard County and their community. We look forward to partnering with the County on this significant and critical project.

The Motorola/KCI team provides turnkey design and installation services for copper- and fiber-structured cabling solutions, outside plant services, and third-party construction management and inspection services for voice and data communications projects. Our clients include commercial, institutional, federal, state and private sector organizations. By combining years of practical experience with our advanced technical skills, we deliver detailed, customer-specific technology infrastructure design and implementation. Our industry-certified engineers, designers, installers, and technicians have access to state-of-the-art design, installation, and testing equipment. We have established partnerships with industry-leading manufacturers and distributors to ensure the highest quality standards-based solutions and timely delivery of material and equipment.

KCI offers designating, design, permitting, installation and inspection services for the expansion and development of local and long-haul distribution infrastructure. In addition to preparing construction documents, our engineering teams conduct corridor studies, site acquisitions, and right-of-way negotiations. Our commitment to quality, safety and customer satisfaction ensures successful cost-effective installations and long-term customer relationships.

Our extensive project experience encompasses hundreds of miles of voice and data transmission lines. We can provide Howard County, in conjunction with the Consortium, with turnkey design and installation services to increase broadband connectivity and communications access across the state of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of Motorola /KCI as part of the Howard County application.

Sincerely,

John Bezold
System Manager
Motorola

Ken Harmel, RCDD
Vice President
KCI Convergent Technologies

UNIVERSAL
ELECTRICAL SERVICES, INC.

3508 Richmond Avenue ■ Baltimore, Maryland 21213 ■ Tel 410-235-4595 ■ Fax 410-235-9898

August 3, 2009

Ira Levy, Director
Howard County Government
Department of Technology & Communication Services
8930 Ascend One Building
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Attention: Mr. Levy

Re: One Maryland Broadband

Mr. Levy the purpose of this letter is to express my company's interest in partnering with Howard County and the other members of The One Maryland Broadband Consortium to provide Broadband access and support to community anchor institutions. I personally feel that extending and linking local networks will greatly improve security and stimulate economic growth. It is with that in mind that I would like to extend our services as a electrical contractor in the commercial and industrial electrical field. We are a small business and we have many years of experience working with several members of the consortium as well as the State of Maryland. We pride ourselves on quality, dependable, and honest business practices. I can assure you that if chosen as the electrical contractor for any project that may result from The One Maryland Broadband initiative we will work to our maximum capacity to insure a complete and quality installation.

Sincerely,

Steven Gayles

Steven Gayles
President

APPLIED NETWORK SOLUTIONS

Building The Most Secure Networks in the World- Period.

August 3, 2009
One Maryland Broadband Consortium

Dear Ms Sherwood:

Applied Network Solutions is interested in joining the One Maryland Broadband Consortium. ANS' decade of network engineering thought leadership in the DoD Intelligence Community sector positions us well to be a valued partner in the consortium. Presently ANS is a member of the Greater Baltimore Technology Council, the Broadband Forum, as well as other technology organizations.

ANS Overview

Applied Network Solutions is a veteran owned, network-centric company founded in 1999. ANS provides Enterprise Architecture, Network Engineering, Information Assurance, and Systems Engineering solutions to our clients. Our primary focus is the network – from design to implementation, including all aspects of security and reliability. Our success has been noted on the Inc. 500 list of fastest growing companies (ANS is #49 on the list of Government Services Companies).

The ANS team has a broad base of experience. Our engineers have provided solutions in many customer areas, both commercial and government. ANS is vendor agnostic, yet very vendor knowledgeable, with certifications and experience on a wide-range of vendor solutions and products. Through working in labs at our facility and at our client sites on business/mission oriented solutions, ANS is established as a technology and thought leader with our clients. Over 90% of our staff holds Government issued clearances.

ANS Solutions

ANS designs, engineers, and implements the most secure networks in the world for some of the most demanding clients. Notable efforts include modernizing global client networks, transforming legacy WAN backbone to modern IP/MPLS based architecture, and merging multiple disparate networks together. ANS provides to our clients more reliable and secure networks, prioritized traffic queues, and lower lifecycle maintenance costs.

In 2008, building on our years of providing superior security engineering to our clients, ANS formalized an Information Assurance practice. Our IA organization allows us to leverage the highly-specialized expertise of our security personnel across all of our projects.

ANS Services

ANS recognizes that in today's world fast, reliable, secure networks and systems are imperative throughout government and industry. The experience and services that ANS has provided to our DOD clients since our inception, we now deliver to a wider client base.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Patrick Wynn
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