



State of North Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

WALTER H. DALTON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
lt.gov@nc.gov

20401 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-0401
TELEPHONE: (919) 733-7350

February 9, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly under-served in their access to broadband technologies. Community-anchor institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and unyielding support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in northeastern, north central, south central, and far northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the state. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and higher than average K-12 drop-out rates. The build-out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

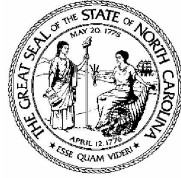
MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned, with the University of North Carolina System as a partner, to lead an effort to bring broadband to these under-served areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter H. Dalton".

Walter H. Dalton





North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

February 10, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school drop out rate.

In particular, I understand that direct fiber connections to municipal, county and state public safety facilities are high priorities in round 2 of BTOP. My team and I are ready to coordinate with you as you design this network to consider how we partner to connect facilities in areas of the build to dark fiber.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reuben F. Young".

Reuben F. Young
Secretary

MAILING ADDRESS:
4701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4701
Telephone: (919) 733-2126



www.NCCrimeControl.org

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

OFFICE LOCATION:
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604-1159
Fax: (919) 715-8477





**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
Office of the Secretary**

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary

February 25, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

On behalf of all of us at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, I want to extend my congratulations on MCNC's success in securing Round 1 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western parts of North Carolina, some of the most needy areas of our state.

I am well aware, however, that there are still areas that remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions like our public libraries and other cultural institutions that we at the Department of Cultural Resources support in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents.

I am writing to offer my full support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a Round 2 BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina, and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the state, and are beset by high unemployment, low incomes, and a high school dropout rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

In my position as Secretary of Cultural Resources, I have become acutely aware of the broadband access issues public libraries face in rural North Carolina. As you know, the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, is coordinating a Round 2 BTOP Public Computing Center application that encompasses many of the public libraries in rural North Carolina. MCNC's Round 1 award and the potential of an MCNC Round 2 award will address the bandwidth challenges that expanded public computing centers in our public libraries will face in these underserved regions.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas. The Department of Cultural Resources looks forward to working with you, now and in the future, to ensure MCNC's ongoing success.

Sincerely,


Linda A. Carlisle
Secretary

MAILING ADDRESS:
4601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4601

Telephone: (919) 807-7250
Fax: (919) 733-1564

LOCATION:
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

February 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school dropout rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

As you have questions related to environmental regulations that may impact your proposal, my team and I stand ready to provide advice and guidance. I have seen in your team at MCNC a commitment to be proactive in investigating the regulatory framework that encompassed your round 1 BTOP proposal and I know that this will carry over into your round 2 plan.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,

Dee Freeman



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1501

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

February 25, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
President and CEO
MCNC, Inc.
3021 Comwallis Road, Box 12889
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

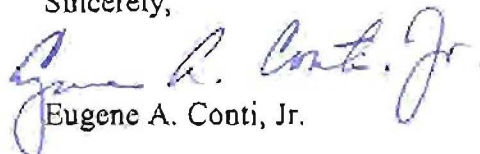
As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school drop out rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

I understand that as with MCNC's round 1 BTOP application, that many of the proposed routes in the four regions follow Interstate and State highways. Know that you have DOT's advice, guidance and support in the coordination of these fiber builds should MCNC's round 2 application be funded.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,


Eugene A. Conti, Jr.



State of North Carolina
Office of the State Chief Information Officer

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

March 1, 2010

Gerald L. Fralick
State Chief Information Officer

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

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy. I am pleased to see your MCNC's round 2 BTOP proposal covers these regions.

I am writing to offer the State of North Carolina Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) support for your application. ITS and MCNC have partnered on several projects over the years. We are excited, for example, about our recent work to obtain the right to link County public health facilities and County free clinics to the State administration network and to NCREN. Our single "backbone" is possible because of the peering and network architecture cooperative work the ITS and MCNC teams have completed over the years.

MCNC's round 2 application will allow us to explore delivering enhanced bandwidth services to ITS customers in the regions of the proposed middle mile build. Across state government, public safety, county and municipal government, the MCNC build will allow ITS more options to serve our expanding customer base. We are particularly excited about the possibility of serving some of these customers with direct fiber connections to an enhanced ITS backbone.

MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the State of North Carolina.

Sincerely,


Gerald L. Fralick

Office of Information Technology Services
P.O. Box 17209, Raleigh, NC 27619-7209
4101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4101 · Telephone: 919-754-6100



State of North Carolina

W. Holt Anderson
State Health IT Coordinator

March 17, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for healthcare, education, and economic development in the rural southeastern and western regions of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across healthcare, education, government, and research find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Healthcare organizations in these primarily rural areas have difficulty in fully participating in the electronic exchange of information to improve the health and healthcare of their patients who are depending on them.

As the State's Health Information Technology Coordinator, I am writing to offer our encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application, the NC Rural Broadband Initiative (NCRBI), that covers the counties in Northeastern NC, North Central NC, South Central NC and far Northwestern NC. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high incidence of chronic health conditions. We place particular emphasis on the applicability of the MCNC proposal to support the secure and efficient exchange of electronic medical records to improve the coordination of care thus enhancing outcomes and efficiencies in our health care sector.

The proposed NCRBI will bring middle mile infrastructure into areas of the State that do not possess this middle mile and to areas that lack the economics to attract private investment in broadband infrastructure. This infrastructure will enable direct connections to fiber and will enable cost-effective last mile connections to be available to hospitals and physician practices in these regions. The NCRBI will be the highway that will enable effective statewide Health Information Exchange.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s and we believe that MCNC is well positioned to lead our State's effort to bring broadband to these un-served and underserved areas.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Holt Anderson'.

W. Holt Anderson
State of NC HIT Coordinator

Phone: 919-558-9258 ext. 27 e-mail: holt@nchica.org
PO Box 13048, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3048



NORTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Betsy Bennett, *Director*

February 9, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and higher than average K12 drop out rates.

The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face. It will also allow broader reach of the compelling natural sciences education programs produced by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This will continue to reinforce our mission to create interest in our current and future generations of students in science and technology.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research Education Network (NCREN) since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas. The Museum is looking forward to partnering with MCNC to provide science education programs to every school in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Betsy Bennett



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Library of North Carolina

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary

Mary L. Boone, State Librarian

February 10, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school drop out rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

I am particularly concerned about the broadband access issues public libraries face in rural North Carolina. As you know, the State Library of North Carolina is coordinating a round two BTOP Public Computing Center application that encompasses many of the public libraries in rural North Carolina. MCNC's round one award, and the potential of an MCNC round two award, will address the bandwidth challenges that public computing centers in public libraries will face in these underserved regions.

I am glad to support MCNC's application for a BTOP round two award, as together we strive towards equal access to broadband across North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Boone".

Mary Boone
State Librarian



The University of North Carolina

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

ERSKINE B. BOWLES, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 FAX: (919) 843-9695

E-mail: ebowles@northcarolina.edu

Constituent Universities

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina State University at Raleigh

University of North Carolina at Asheville

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Western Carolina University

Winston-Salem State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

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February 16, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's recent success in securing round-one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funds to support fiber acquisition for the NC Research and Education Network in rural North Carolina. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western regions of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four geographic areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare, and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. As a result, consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and enthusiastic support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round-two BTOP application that covers the counties in northeastern North Carolina, north central North Carolina, south central North Carolina, and far northwestern North Carolina. These four geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the state. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes, and higher than average K-12 dropout rates.

The build-out of broadband access is absolutely essential for equity of education, advances in healthcare, and the spread of economic opportunity in these regions. I have been painfully aware of the pressing need to address this lack of broadband infrastructure since I chaired the NC Rural Prosperity Task Force in 1999.

As you demonstrated in round one of BTOP, MCNC is well positioned to lead a collaborative effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas, and we pledge the University's support of your application.

Sincerely,

Erskine Bowles



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

ROBERT O. NELSON, *Vice President for Finance*

Telephone: (919) 962-4598 • Fax: (919) 962-0008 • E-mail: rnelson@northcarolina.edu

March 4, 2010

Constituent Universities
Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

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Ms. Patricia Moody
CFO and Secretary/Treasurer
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Ms. Moody:

Thank you for sharing with me a status report on MCNC's plan to support fiber acquisition for the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) in rural North Carolina. NCREN is of great importance to the University of North Carolina System and its seventeen member institutions. Our reliance on NCREN has grown as economic conditions have restricted travel, and our ability to offer a desired breadth and depth of courses to our 216,000 students has been challenged. The work MCNC is now doing in the southeastern and southwestern areas is much needed. Additional funds are now necessary to provide equitable broadband coverage statewide.

We are pleased that MCNC is responding to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program notice of funding availability, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds). As you know, the State of North Carolina has experienced a drastic reduction in state revenue collections. By June 30, 2009, the state revenues were 15.2% below budget, down \$3.2 Billion.

When the 2009 N.C. General Assembly approved the University's 2009-10 budget, they reduced our budget by over 6%. As a result, 900 jobs were eliminated and essential programs were reduced or curtailed.

Additionally, in light of the slow economic recovery in North Carolina, the Governor has frozen our 2009-10 budget at the 95% level. This 5% "hold back" of state funds will be in addition to the 6% permanent cuts enacted by the legislature. MCNC will be subject to these reductions.

The State of North Carolina requires that all contracts include an availability of funds clause. Therefore, without State funds, MCNC would not be allowed to pursue this important broadband technology project, without an external funding source.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Nelson

North Carolina
INDEPENDENT
Colleges & Universities

A. Hope Williams
President

February 19, 2010

Barton College
Wilson
Belmont Abbey College
Belmont
Bennett College for Women
Greensboro
Brevard College
Brevard
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences
Concord
Campbell University
Buies Creek
Catawba College
Salisbury
Chowan University
Alufreesboro
Davidson College
Davidson
Duke University
Durham
Elon University
Elon
Gardner-Webb University
Boiling Springs
Greensboro College
Greensboro
Guilford College
Greensboro
High Point University
High Point
Johnson C. Smith University
Charlotte
Lees-McRae College
Banner Elk
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Hickory
Livingstone College
Salisbury
Louisburg College
Louisburg
Mars Hill College
Mars Hill
Meredith College
Raleigh
Methodist University
Fayetteville
Montreat College
Montreat
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive
N.C. Wesleyan College
Rocky Mount
Peace College
Raleigh
Pfeiffer University
Misenheimer
Queens University of Charlotte
Charlotte
St. Andrews Presbyterian College
Laurinburg
Saint Augustines College
Raleigh
Salem College
Winston-Salem
Shaw University
Raleigh
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem
Warren Wilson College
Asheville
Wingate University
Wingate

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

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

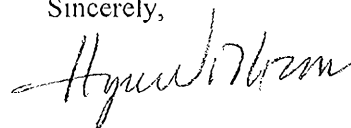
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I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in northeastern North Carolina, north central North Carolina, south central North Carolina and far northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school drop out rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

In particular, several Independent Colleges and Universities are located in the regions encompassed by the proposed build. Any work that can be done to connect these schools to NCREN at reasonable rates would greatly enhance the ability of these institutions to serve their students, faculty and staff.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of NCREN since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,



A. Hope Williams



Kathryn May <kmay@mailbox.mcnc.org>

Fwd: MCNC's Round 2 BTOP Proposal

Joe Freddoso <jfreddoso@mcnc.org>

Mon, Feb 22, 2010 at 11:31 AM

To: Kathryn May <kmay@mailbox.mcnc.org>, Mark Johnson <mjohnson@mailbox.mcnc.org>

Kathy--Please print this and put it with the other letters of support?

Joe

Dear Joe:

Thanks so much for sharing the plans for MCNC's round 2 BTOP proposal. We are particularly pleased that the NTIA has prioritized direct fiber connections to Community Colleges in BTOP round 2.

You and I have discussed at length the need for enhanced broadband infrastructure at all 58 institutions that comprise the North Carolina Community College System.

Enrollment at all our colleges has increased by double digit percentages this past year and this adds to an already impressive growth trend. Simply put, we can no longer keep up with student demand by building bricks and mortar. We have begun to implement robust strategies that rely on distance and virtual learning to meet the demands of our now roughly 900,000 full and part-time students. All of NCCCS 58 institutions need to virtually collaborate and integrate with each other and with K12 School Districts and University Higher Ed in order to deliver the best education experience possible to our students.

The connection to NCREN and our connection to the commercial Internet through NCREN is growing in importance every year for our institutions. My analysis confirms what you and I have discussed. We will soon be constrained financially if we have to meet the growth in demand for bandwidth with leased middle mile wholesale bandwidth and leased last mile circuits. A more scalable model will be created if MCNC can build direct last mile fiber to community colleges across the state and connect this last mile fiber to an NCREN middle mile that is owned by MCNC. BTOP 2 accomplishes both these tasks.

I am fully supportive of you application and will work to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your continued service to NCCCS, our 58 institutions and our 900,000 students.

SWW

Dr. Sandra Wall Williams
Senior Vice-President and Chief
Technology and Workforce Development
North Carolina Community College System
5006 Mail Service Center
200 West Jones Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-5006
919-807-6976
FAX 919-807-7164
swilliams@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

North Carolina Community Colleges
Creating Success
Hope Opportunity Jobs
www.ncccommunitycolleges.edu

E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and shall be disclosed to third parties when required by the statutes. (NCGS.Ch.132)

—
Joe Freddoso
President and CEO
MCNC
3021 Cornwallis Road, Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709
O: (919) 248-8400
M: (919) 247-5121
e-mail: joe@mcnc.org

Connecting North Carolina's Future Today



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

February 15, 2010

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

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I am writing to offer my encouragement support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the state. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school drop out rate.

The build out of infrastructure will allow students in these areas to access many courses in the physical sciences, natural sciences and math that are not offered in their home districts. The vision of an equitable education to all students in the state will become a reality.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June St. Clair Atkinson".

June St. Clair Atkinson

JSA:JF:mcw

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent* | jatkinson@dpi.state.nc.us
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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



College of The Albemarle

March 5, 2010

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

RE: North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

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

The College of The Albemarle is already a Community Anchor Institution for MCNC. We look forward to the improved bandwidth, improved reliability and cost savings that the successful completion of this project will provide.

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our region to a statewide K-20 Education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina. Affordable access to such a network, at parity with urban and metropolitan areas, would offer tremendous advantages in our economic recruitment of New Economy businesses whose operations depend upon high reliability and high capacity electronic communications and information networks.

We would like for College of The Albemarle, along with Elizabeth City State University, to be the hub of a fiber-optic education network that connects regional K-20 schools together so that they can share access to real-time, interactive video distance learning curricula (soon to be high definition video) as well as to reduce the costs of services such as Internet and telecommunications. Broadband access would also enable our rural schools to cut the costs of personal computer replacements due to obsolescence, purchases of software licenses, and cost of managing hardware and software

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Elizabeth City Campus
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Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso

March 5, 2010

Page 2

compatibility problems, by moving to a cloud computing system - in which the network becomes an integral part of the computer. Deployment of these types of systems and applications would be a tremendous boon for our rural education community, especially today. It would help to lower their capital costs and operating and communications costs significantly and allow them to channel those savings into retaining and hiring teachers and purchasing academic support materials.

Interconnecting COA, ECSU and our schools together over a high-capacity network that can accommodate the high-bandwidth requirements and reliability requirements of interactive video distance learning and cloud computing will enable more and better types of instructional curricula than our school can currently afford to offer.

Now, more than ever, we are challenged to do more with far less than we have ever had, but with innovative electronic enhancements to cut unnecessary costs and share instructional resources, we can still prepare our students to enter a globally competitive society.

College of The Albemarle strongly supports the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) application to create a high-capacity, affordable and reliable fiber-optic network connecting the educational institutions of our area together and to the Internet.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ray G. Scaffa
Acting President



WILLIE J. GILCHRIST
CHANCELLOR

TEL: (252) 335-3228
FAX: (252) 335-3731
EMAIL: WJGILCHRIST@MAIL.ECSU.EDU

March 10, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to our university and citizens. Many local residents, as well as those from neighboring communities in Hertford, Gates, Chowan,

Perquimans, Currituck, Bertie, Halifax, Northampton, Washington, and Nash receive a wide-range of specialized services from the staff and faculty at Elizabeth City State University, including access to the University Drug Information Center. The university currently provides information about chronic diseases and medication to the community through its Drug Information Center, ran by the School of Pharmacy. It is a resource center that provides information about prescription and non-prescription medications including vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements and alternative therapies to people in the community. It also provides relevant, accurate, and unbiased drug information to healthcare professionals and communities in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. There is no charge for any its services, and general health consultations are available with a pharmacist by appointment. A high-speed broadband connectivity to this facility will improve communications with the public while reducing operational cost.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie J. Gilchrist".

Willie J. Gilchrist, Ed.D.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Cooperative Institute for
Climate and Satellites

151 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801-5001
Tel: 828-257-3001
Fax: 828 271 4328

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Joe,

First, congratulations on MCNC's success in round one of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) process. The connectivity that this support brings to western NC and Asheville will have a dramatic impact on our new Cooperative Institute and will be very helpful towards our eventual maturation and success. As one of NOAA's newest Cooperative Institute in Asheville, the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, we view NCREN as the gateway for us to connect to local, state, regional and national networks. This support is a tremendous step towards bringing the information highway to the mountains.

Our new institute is a national partnership of more than a dozen academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and private corporations led by NC State University for the University of North Carolina system. It would not be an exaggeration to say that our success will be heavily dependent on having reliable access to high-bandwidth networks. To this end, since we serve a gateway function between NOAA and the UNC system, it is very important that we have excellent connectivity to all the system campuses. The second phase of the BTOP puts in place such connectivity and would be very helpful in involving all of the state in research, education and workforce development. Connectivity to all parts of the state is a strategic investment for NOAA, the Cooperative Institute and the State of North Carolina.

Owned fiber throughout your backbone will greatly increase the utility of your network for CICS-NC. We are pleased to support to your application phase 2 BTOP funding.

Regards,



Otis B. Brown
Director, CICS-NC

Cc: David Urbanski, NOAA/NCDC



UNC
FRANK HAWKINS KENAN
INSTITUTE OF
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

JOHN D. KASARDA, DIRECTOR

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at CHAPEL HILL

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March 22, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

On behalf of the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, I am delighted to offer a letter of support to endorse NCRBI—the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative. NCRBI is the BTOP2 Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application being submitted by MCNC. We are delighted to have been one of the many organizations working to support this ambitious and worthy proposal.

The three priorities of the Kenan Institute are entrepreneurship, economic development, and global competitiveness. We have a particular emphasis on rural North Carolina. Adequate and accessible state-of-the-art fiber optic broadband infrastructure is necessary for citizens, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to participate in the 21st Century Information Age. This Middle Mile broadband deployment will add to the existing NCREN network and will result in much needed fiber optic backbone throughout the majority of the North Carolina counties still underserved and living on the wrong side of the Digital Divide.

We are pleased to have played a role in building community coalitions throughout the state for this project. During and after network deployment, we will continue to help individuals, communities, and private businesses understand how they can leverage this new infrastructure to be better informed, connected, and more successful. We will also work with new private sector providers to bring more Last Mile services into these counties, using wholesale services from the more reliable, greater capacity Middle Mile backbone infrastructure that this project will provide.

This would not have happened without ARRA BTOP2 funding and the leadership of MCNC.

We wish you all success with this important initiative.

Cordially,

John D. Kasarda, PhD
Director and Kenan Distinguished Professor of Management



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March 20, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

I am delighted to offer a strong letter of support for the BTOP2 Middle Mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application being led by MCNC. The need for this investment in fiber optic broadband infrastructure is great, and it would not happen without the matching funds made available for broadband deployment through the ARRA. The rural counties of North Carolina included in this comprehensive BTOP2 MCNC application are the poster children of the underserved and struggling parts of America for which this precious federal funding is intended.

The MCNC BTOP2 Middle Mile strategy is a sound one. It proposes to expand the highly successful NCREN fiber optic network throughout virtually every county in North Carolina that is currently underserved by existing private service providers. These are the counties that are currently on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. Private sector service providers will access the fiber on the network, bringing new Last Mile and enhanced services to millions of users throughout these counties, lowering Internet access prices for wholesale and Last Mile customers and small businesses by creating more competition and reliable fiber optic capacity. The strategy is a major step toward closing the Digital Divide in North Carolina.

Many of us here at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School and the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise have gladly worked with you and others to assemble this application. I greatly appreciate the effective leadership that you and your MCNC team have provided to this important effort. MCNC is the obvious organization to be the lead applicant in this, as you were in your successful BTOP1 application. We have been delighted to support the application in many ways, including holding several regional meetings with citizens and elected officials across the state to inform them of this application and invite their support. We have also sent out over a thousand emails and telephone calls to county managers, county CIO/ IT directors, county and regional economic

development directors, and other civic and business leaders across the state. We have also attended multiple statewide meetings of the public/private North Carolina Economic Development Association to inform participants of this effort and solicit their support. We will continue to play a major role in engaging the public and private stakeholders to leverage this Middle Mile asset in all aspects of community development.

Most of us are familiar with the documented benefits to individuals, government agencies, healthcare services, and businesses from having access to adequate bandwidth. I would like to share with you some examples of my most notable observations about life in these counties without access to adequate bandwidth. A few examples are as follows:

- Three years ago, the Town of Edenton asked me to conduct an initial feasibility study and business plan for the Town to offer WiFi to serve the entire community. We found that about 60% of the annual operating cost for a municipal WiFi service in Edenton was the cost of plugging the system into a backhaul provider to connect to the Internet, not costs internal to serving the immediate community. There was only one service provider option for backhaul, and in addition to being very expensive, the legacy network was notoriously limited in bandwidth and unreliable.
- Many retail businesses in rural North Carolina operate on cash or checks only – they do not take credit cards or debit cards for purchases. It took me a while to understand why this was the case, as in the urban parts of the state I always was able to pay for things with plastic. For a merchant to accept plastic means they have to have Internet access to verify credit or process debits. If you are in an area where your only option is dial up, or the cost of such access is prohibitive, your only option is a cash or check economy.
- The window of the downtown technology store in Hertford had the special of the month painted on it in large block letters to catch the attention of passersby. “January Special” it read. “Dial Up -- only \$19.95 a month!” Dial up? \$19.95 a month for Dial Up?
- The rural healthcare facility in the mountains of western North Carolina were better able to serve local citizens with their new x-ray machine, although reading and interpretation of complicated medical cases was limited on site. Ninety miles away was a regional hospital with accomplished professionals ready to read and interpret the x-rays. Did the rural healthcare facility digitize the x-ray and upload it to be accessible and read by professionals in the nearby regional hospital? No, instead they used a courier service to drive the 90 miles and deliver the x-ray by hand. Given the limited bandwidth available to the regional healthcare facility, it was faster for the courier to drive and deliver the x-ray by hand than to try to upload a digital version for remote reading and diagnosis.
- A remarkable prototype of an environmentally friendly, sustainable retirement and second home real estate development is being planned for the Inner Banks of North Carolina. The developer naturally assumed there would be access to a level of technology infrastructure that would readily support VoIP, IPTV, webcams, remote viewing and data monitoring, and other contemporary high speed broadband applications. Imagine his reaction when the only available service provider with the legacy network informed him that his technology options for the development were dial up or DSL.

We simply must change the course for these counties in North Carolina. For all too long and for understandable reasons, they have been left behind. Please accept my thanks and

appreciation for the outstanding leadership you and the MCNC team have provided in this BTOP2 application.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Didow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Nicholas Didow
Kenan Institute Faculty Fellow
Kenan-Flagler Business School
4615 McColl Building
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3490



UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

WILLIAM L. ROPER, MD, MPH
Stuart Bondurant Distinguished Professor
Dean and Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs
CEO, UNC Health Care System

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March 3, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

Four areas of the State remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community anchor institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

As you have learned from Dr. Tom Shea, Michael Young and others, the UNC Health Care System has aggressive plans for the deployment of telemedicine technologies and tele-health strategies throughout rural North Carolina. This could have great impact on both the treatment and prevention of a host of conditions.

Patients with all forms of cancer, diabetes, pulmonary ailments, etc. usually are bound by both distance and time that determines the quality and breadth of care they receive. A "middle-mile" NCREN with essentially unlimited capacity in rural areas would bridge geography and distance and enable us to scale quality care throughout the State. This relatively small investment could positively impact many lives.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. I offer the support of the UNC Health Care System for your application for ARRA Broadband Stimulus Funds.

Sincerely,



William L. Roper



UNC
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

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MICHAEL R. SMITH
Dean

March 11, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I strongly endorse the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This proposal is being submitted by an organization that is guaranteed to implement it successfully—MCNC, which operates North Carolina's Research and Education Network and connects key public educational institutions across the state through high-speed fiber optics.

The mission of the UNC School of Government is to improve the lives of North Carolinians by engaging in practical scholarship that helps public officials and citizens understand and improve state and local government. As the largest university-based local government training, advisory, and research organization in the United States, the School of Government offers up to 200 courses, seminars, and specialized conferences for more than 12,000 public officials each year. Through these classes, we educate public officials from unserved and underserved communities who are facing significant economic, educational, social, and public safety challenges due to lack of critical broadband infrastructure. On behalf of our constituents, we strongly support the MCNC application to BTOP, designated as the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative.

North Carolina's local governments, through the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, are seeking to provide their communities with the capacity for high-quality and affordable communications services. Those services are the key to enhancing economic development, increasing educational opportunities, and improving governmental transparency and accountability. The UNC School of Government recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new service offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings. Accordingly, we are committed to insuring that our communities are prepared to meet the technological challenges by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, and through the subsequent education and training to leverage these assets into economic, educational, and social realities for our citizens.

The UNC School of Government applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, in the unserved and underserved counties in North Carolina. This is critically important for North Carolina. We respectfully request the NTLA to strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this comprehensive and community-altering initiative. We look forward to the outcomes that the BTOP award will ensure for our state.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Smith

Dean

Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

Mr. Linwood L. Williams
Superintendent

Mr. Frank Heath
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum and Instruction

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Mark Small, Chair
Mrs. Janice Boyce, Vice-Chair
Mr. Harvey Beasley, Sr.
Mr. Randy Foreman
Dr. Glenda Griffin
Mr. Bill Luton
Dr. William Stewart

March 4, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

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

Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools is already a Community Anchor Institution for MCNC. We look forward to the improved bandwidth, improved reliability and cost savings that the successful completion of this project will provide.

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

Now, more than ever, we are challenged to do more with far less than we have ever had, but with innovative electronic enhancements to cut unnecessary costs and share instructional resources, we can still prepare our students to enter a globally competitive society.

Mr. Freddoso
March 5, 2010
page two

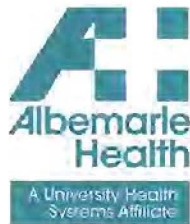
The education community strongly supports the application to create a high-capacity, affordable and reliable fiber-optic network connecting the educational institutions of our area together and to the Internet.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linwood L. Williams, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linwood L. Williams, Sr.
Superintendent



Albemarle Hospital
Regional Medical Center
Regional Oncology Center
Island Medical Center
Gates County Medical Center
Albemarle Hospital Foundation
• Community Care Clinics

1144 N. Road Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
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www.albemarlehealth.org

March 4, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

On behalf of Albemarle Health, we support the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute). The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our region to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet. As the operator of NCREN, MCNC has 25 years experience in providing advanced network communications to public education in North Carolina.

Affordable and reliable access to high-capacity telecommunications service and Broadband Internet access are fundamental requirements for electronic healthcare applications, such as remote diagnostics, picture archiving and communications systems for rapid transmission of health care images and electronic patient medical records. These applications not only offer significant advances in health care services for our patients, but can also provide substantial savings for health care institutions. Rural health care institutions must operate on thin margins; therefore, any advances that can produce cost savings and improve patient care are critically important to us. In order for our organization to be able to take advantage of these electronic advances, we require high capacity and highly reliable network access and interconnection to other health care sites in the area - all at rates at parity with those prevalent in urban and metropolitan areas.

Broadband is a necessary enabler of technology solutions necessary to the success of our business community, healthcare providers, and educational institutions. Availability of advanced broadband is a key success factor in our efforts to bring new jobs to our area, as well as to expand our educational and workforce development efforts to ensure that workers have the skills necessary to compete in today's job market.

We understand that the Application submitted under the BIP and BTOP Programs will allow our area communications infrastructure to be expanded to a high-capacity, highly reliable and

affordable fiber-optic network. We also understand that our health care institutions and public safety agencies will be connected to the network so that we can rapidly share patient records and imaging among health care providers in a critical care situation. The capacity and redundancy offered through this expansion is an absolute necessity for the ultra-high reliability demands of electronic healthcare communications. In addition to allowing our health care institutions to share vital records and precious resources, the system will also allow us to communicate with doctors' offices, insurers, public health, EMS, and other organizations within the healthcare electronic "eco-system", via affordable high-capacity Broadband links to those locations.

In assuring this project meets the objectives outlined in the application, it is important to realize that affordable delivery to the "last mile" is essential. There are many key stakeholders who live and work in the outer reaches of the Northeastern corridor who may have difficulty reaching the "middle mile"; in particular, those stakeholders with businesses or homes in southern Pasquotank county (Weeksville), southern Camden county (North River), and southern Perquimans county (New Hope). All of these areas are currently without broadband capabilities and pose significant barriers to the stakeholders in those areas.

Moreover, our expectation is that the current cost of broadband would be reduced for existing networks and provides the necessary redundancy inherent in a "ring" architecture. While Albemarle Health currently enjoys high-speed networks with our facilities throughout Northeastern North Carolina, this is an expensive network for us and one that does not have the necessary redundancy in case of a single point of failure. Albemarle Health will be committed to the success of the middle-mile and will consider being a direct customer when presented with opportunities to reduce costs, improve performance, and/or improve health services in our community.

We support the efforts of the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) to bring these important improvements to the healthcare community of our rural area. Without the funding support made possible from the American Recovery and Reinvestment through the BIP and BTOP programs, our underserved area would not have access to these types of electronic advances for many years to come. It is economically infeasible for any private sector company to build this type of infrastructure without access to capital funding support through these programs. If awarded, we can assure you that we will make good use of the network to enhance health care services in our area and to provide more and more types of electronic services for our patients.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

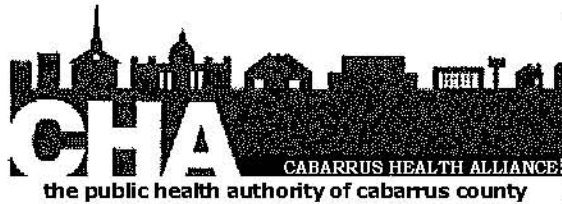


Sharon M. Tanner
President



Stephen W. Clark
Chief Information Officer

cc: Mr. Wayne Harris, Albemarle Economic Development Commission



March 4, 2010
Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
President and CEO
MCNC, Inc.
3021 Cornwallis Road, Box 12889
RTP, NC 27709

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As the Program Coordinator for the North Carolina TeleHealth Network (NCTN), I've worked to support broadband services for public non-profit healthcare providers leveraging \$12.1M in discounts from the FCC's Rural Healthcare Pilot Program and (when completed) about \$9M from NCTN subscribers. While the RHCPP/NCTN program provides public health clinics, free clinics, and non-profit hospitals in NC with a great start at meeting the next generation of broadband demand, its time horizon is limited and it does not include support for the very large number of private healthcare providers in NC (about 10,000). Supporting the public non-profit providers beyond the RHCPP funding is an important sustainability goal. Supporting the private healthcare providers with broadband services integrated with the NCTN will complete a network that can support the types of activities involved in meeting Meaningful Use of EHR objectives and related improvements to health and care- especially in rural and underserved areas.

MCNC's round 1 BTOP award and MCNC's round 2 BTOP proposals will provide a public and private infrastructure that will scale to help support the needs of the NCTN, in the areas covered, for decades into the future by improving coverage and lowering prices- especially in rural areas. Without the BTOP program and MCNC's leadership, this build out of rural broadband infrastructure would not be possible.

I am, therefore, extremely pleased to offer my endorsement of MCNC's BTOP round 2 application and to offer my support in collaborating to make the best use of the totality of broadband resources from federal and others sources to support health and care in NC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William F. Pilkington'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. William F. Pilkington

Director, Cabarrus Health Alliance

1307 South Cannon Boulevard o Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Phone: 704-9204000 • Fax 704-933-3345 o www.CabarrusHealth.org



MOSES CONE HEALTH SYSTEM

Internal Medicine Program

General Internal Medicine

Samuel Cykert, MD Chief
Nancy Phifer, MD Associate Program Director
Katherine Kirk, MD Associate Program Director

C. Stewart Rogers, MD
Jerry Joines, MD
Cornelius Van Dam, MD
David P. Fitzgerald, MD

Infectious Diseases

Timothy W. Lane, MD, FACP
John F. Campbell, MD
Jeffrey C. Hatcher, MD
Cornelius Van Dam, MD
David P. Fitzgerald, MD
Kelly Vollmer, MD

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Fax 336.832.8026

February 23, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's successful application for round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high incidence of health related maladies.

The proposed infrastructure will allow remote diagnosis, electronic medical records and other foundational health care technologies to be implemented in these underserved regions. I firmly believe the citizens in these regions will receive higher quality care and more proactive care if this round 2 BTOP proposal is funded.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,

Samuel Cykert, MD
Chief Internal Medicine Program
The Moses Cone Health System, and
Clinical Director,
North Carolina AHEC Regional Extension Center
Email: samuel_cykert@med.unc.edu
Phone: 336-832-8062



February 23, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost in providing affordable and accessible broadband capacity to support healthcare, education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western regions of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four additional areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. In particular, the significant investment of ARRA HITECH stimulus funding targeted to improve outcomes in healthcare through a transformation of the health and healthcare sector from a paper-based and inefficient status to one that is electronic and connected will depend on the availability of bandwidth across all settings of care and regions of the state. We face particular challenges in the rural and underserved areas.

MCNC was actively involved in our Health Information Exchange (HIE) Advisory Council and committees that provided the foundation for NC's Strategic Planning Task Force and subsequently the application for ARRA HITECH Health IT funding. In order to effectively implement North Carolina's HIE strategy, the task force recommended that MCNC pursue BTOP funds for middle mile infrastructure across all 80 – 85 counties of rural North Carolina. NC was recently awarded \$12.9M to complete an operational plan and to begin the implementation of statewide health information exchange capabilities. This will require every area of the state to possess a robust and scalable Broadband Infrastructure. MCNC's leadership in the BTOP program is helping to provide this most critical infrastructure in the State's most underserved areas.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas. NCHICA looks forward to working with MCNC in the achievement of this essential component of the State's infrastructure and realizing the vision of improved health outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Holt Anderson'.

W. Holt Anderson
Executive Director

North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc.

PO Box 13048, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3048

919-558-9258 www.nchica.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

School of Medicine
Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Program in Bone Marrow Transplantation

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB# 7305, 3009 Old Clinic Building
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7305
Tel: (919) 966-7746 / Fax: (919) 966-7748

February 21, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high incidence of health related maladies.

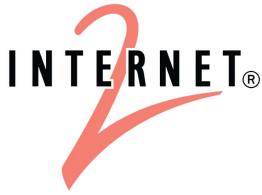
The proposed infrastructure will allow remote diagnosis, electronic medical records and other foundational health care technologies to be implemented in these underserved regions. I firmly believe the citizens in these regions will receive higher quality care and more proactive care if this round 2 BTOP proposal is funded.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,



Thomas C Shea, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Program
Associate Director for Outreach,
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chapel Hill, NC 27599



March 12, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

On behalf of National LambdaRail and Internet2, we are pleased to write in support of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative (NCRBI) proposal which MCNC is submitting to the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (NTIA BTOP).

This proposal will build 1,150 miles of connectivity through 61 counties in northeastern, northwestern, north central, and south central North Carolina, building upon the existing network of the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN). The project will leverage MCNC's existing fiber and Round 1 BTOP award to create a community anchor institution network spanning the entire state with owned dark fiber. This will include direct builds to community anchor institutions, replacing bandwidth-limited, leased circuits with direct fiber connections. This will allow community anchor institutions to upgrade their connections to advanced research networks, such as Internet2 and National LambdaRail, with whom NCREN directly peers, as well as North Carolina's Public Sector Intranet and the commercial Internet. The project will build upon MCNC's long history of leadership in the Southeast region. As much of the proposal's covered area will include counties with unemployment rates above the national average and per capita income below the national average, it also is likely to facilitate economic growth in isolated geographic areas, job creation through project maintenance and construction, and enhance the availability of affordable broadband service throughout the state. This is likely to allow MCNC to expand critical access to advanced broadband services throughout the state while enabling new applications that are likely to benefit the entire area. The proposal clearly responds to BTOP priorities and will involve a highly experienced management team.

National LambdaRail and Internet2 have had a long and effective partnership with regional research and education networks such as NREN. Both organizations have been leaders in innovative deployments of advanced networking resources that are critical to enhancing the U.S. research and education agenda and positioning its leadership on a global scale. Through development of leading edge Internet technologies like dynamically provisioned bandwidth, end to end network performance monitoring systems, and network security, both organizations in partnership with regional networks



like NREN provide focused support to meet the unique requirements of the research and education community. By working together, this partnership of advanced research networks is particularly well suited to meet ambitious initiatives that are likely to have an impact on the American public, such as those offered by the NTIA BTOP.

Internet2 and National LambdaRail have actively collaborated with many regional networking organizations to advocate for a national broadband footprint whose impact would include linkages between all of the regionally funded BTOP programs within a comprehensive national fabric. In support of this effort, Internet2 and National LambdaRail are submitting a joint BTOP proposal to develop the United States Unified Community Anchor Network (U.S. UCAN) that will leverage their collective partnerships and expertise, and that will provide critical national resources to complement and enhance the viability of regionally funded BTOP projects like NCRBI.

We are pleased to offer our joint support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Van Houweling".

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO
Internet2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Ricart".

Glenn Ricart
President and CEO
National LambdaRail



Office of the President

**North
Carolina
Biotechnology
Center**

15 T.W. Alexander Drive

Post Office Box 13547

Research Triangle Park

North Carolina 27709-3547

USA

919-541-9366

main fax 919-549-9710

February 9, 2010

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

Dear Joe:

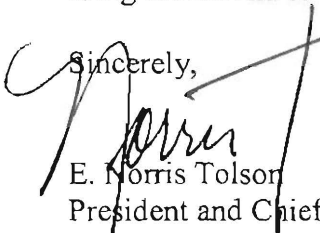
Congratulations on MCNC's success in securing round one Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Funds. Your award is a tremendous boost for education and economic development in the rural southeastern and western part of North Carolina.

As you and I have discussed at length, four areas of the state remain significantly underserved in their access to broadband technologies. Community Anchor Institutions across education, government, healthcare and research in these areas find themselves offering a lower level of digital services to their constituents. Consumers and small businesses find it difficult to participate in the growing digital economy.

I am writing to offer my encouragement and support for MCNC's leadership in submitting a round two BTOP application that covers the counties in Northeastern North Carolina, North Central North Carolina, South Central North Carolina and far Northwestern North Carolina. These geographic regions contain almost one-half of the counties in the State. These counties are beset by high unemployment, low incomes and a high school dropout rate. The build out of infrastructure will allow citizens in these areas additional means to address the issues they face.

MCNC has provided thoughtful guidance and great service as the operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network since the network's inception in the mid-1980s. MCNC is well positioned to lead an effort to bring broadband to these underserved areas.

Sincerely,


E. Norris Tolson
President and Chief Executive Officer

FAX 919-549-8815

ASHEVILLE

CHARLOTTE

GREENVILLE

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

WILMINGTON

WINSTON-SALEM



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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association recognizes that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association Board of Directors at the regular meeting held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Government on March 12, 2010.

Signature:



President

North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

www.outerbankschamber.com

P.O. Box 1757 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

(252)441-8144, Voice

(252)441-0338, Fax

e-mail: chamber@outer-banks.com

March 3, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

As Chairman of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce representing over 1,000 businesses, I am writing to express support for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute.

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

Small business plays a large role in our area economy. Many small businesses are home-based and, as such, are particularly dependent upon access to advanced broadband services to reach customer markets, suppliers, and sources of information and expertise.

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


The current severe economic recession has more adversely affected rural, sparsely populated communities. Many of our residents out-commute to work. When the price of gasoline approached historically high levels last year, it became even more difficult and costly to

out commute. Supporting the expansion of area telecommunications infrastructure and interconnections to major metropolitan trading centers would allow our residents and businesses to electronically work and conduct business from within their homes or local businesses. The proposed network expansion and creation of a redundant network is tightly linked to the success of that strategy.

I hope that you will approve the MCNC/Kenan Institute application to support our businesses, retain and create new jobs and expand opportunities for our citizens.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul N. Tine".

Paul N. Tine, Chairman
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

348 South Main Street
Post Office Box 366
Sparta, NC 28675
Tel: (336) 372-4179
Fax: (336) 372-5969

County Commissioners

Ken Richardson—Chairman
Randy Miller—Vice Chairman
Doug Murphy
Milly B. Richardson
Steve Roten

County Manager
Don Adams

County Attorney
Donna Shumate

3/2/10

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Alleghany County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.3%, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Adams', written in a cursive style.

Don Adams
Alleghany County Manager

March 2, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Alleghany County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12%, well above the state and national average. Our per capita income is \$17,691, also below the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance

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

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

Wendy Williams, ENP, GISP
E-911/Mapping Coordinator
Alleghany County, NC

March 2, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Ashe County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.3%, well above the state and national average. Our per capita income is \$19,932, also below the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health

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

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



R. Cyrus Hufley
Chief Information Officer
Ashe County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
Jerry Langley, Chairman
Stan Deatherage, Vice Chairman
Ed Booth
Al Klemm
Robert Cayton
Jay McRoy
Hood Richardson



COUNTY OFFICIALS
Paul G. Spruill, County Manager
Sharon C. Singleton, Clerk to the Board
William P. Mayo, County Attorney
Jim Chrisman, Assistant County Manager

**BEAUFORT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

March 22, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

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

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,

Jerry Langley, Chairman
Stan Deatherage, Vice Chairman
Ed Booth
Al Klemm
Robert Cayton
Jay McRoy
Hood Richardson



COUNTY OFFICIALS

Paul G. Spruill, County Manager
Sharon C. Singleton, Clerk to the Board
William P. Mayo, County Attorney
Jim Chrisman, Assistant County Manager

**BEAUFORT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

This initiative is particularly important to Beaufort County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.3%, well above the state and national average. Our average household income is \$48,805, much below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Spruill".

Paul Spruill
Beaufort County Manager

C:\personal\broadband endorsementmarch2010.doc



BERTIE COUNTY

106 DUNDEE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 530
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA 27983
(252) 794-5300
FAX: (252) 794-5327
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NORMAN M. CHERRY, SR., Chairman
LEWIS C. HOGGARD, III, Vice-Chairman
RICK HARRELL
J. WALLACE PERRY
CHARLES L. SMITH

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
ZEE LAMB, County Manager
MORRIS RASCOE, Assistant County Manager
MISTY J. DEANES, Clerk to the Board

March 3, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

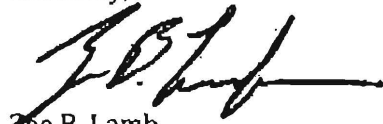
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Bertie County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to

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

This initiative is particularly important to Bertie County. Our unemployment rate stands at 11% for 2009, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (252) 794-5300 or via email at zee.lamb@bertie.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zee B. Lamb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Zee B. Lamb
Bertie County Manager

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



March 3, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

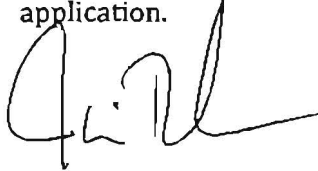
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Brunswick County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to reduce wholesale and retail costs of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

This initiative is particularly important to Brunswick County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.4%, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina

Page 2
March 3, 2010

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bradshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Bradshaw
Executive Director
Brunswick County Economic
Development Commission

Asheville-Buncombe County
March 11, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet through the non-profit ERC Broadband. ERC Broadband, a partner to the MCNC application, has partnered with MCNC for many years to deliver services to Buncombe County.

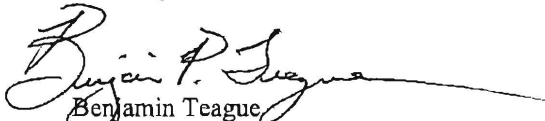
The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Buncombe County is a significant one. Through MCNC and ERC Broadband, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Buncombe County. Our unemployment rate stands at 8.3%, and our average personal income is 86% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute, MCNC, and ERC Broadband.

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

Sincerely,



Benjamin Teague
Senior Vice-President of Economic Development
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County



Wanda Greene, PhD, CPA
County Manager

Buncombe County Manager

Jon Creighton, MBA
Assistant County Manager / Planning Director

Mandy Stone, MSW
Assistant County Manager / DSS Director

March 12, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the Commercial Internet through the non-profit ERC Broadband. ERC Broadband, a partner to the MCNC application, has partnered with MCNC for many years to deliver services to Buncombe County.

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

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

This initiative is important to Buncombe County. Our unemployment rate stands at 8.3, well above the state and national average. Our per capita personal income is 86% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to



undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute, MCNC, and ERC Broadband.

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



Wanda Greene
Buncombe County Manager



March 2, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Caldwell County. Our unemployment rate stands at 16.7% and our per capita income is \$20,029. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural

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

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

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

Greg Branch
IT Director
Caldwell County

Camden County Board of Education

RON MELCHIORRE
Superintendent

174 North 343
Camden, North Carolina 27921-7549
Telephone (252) 335-0831 • Fax (252) 331-2300

BOARD MEMBERS
Terri B. Faison, Chair
Daniel H. Moore, M.D., Vice Chair
G. Wayne White
Chris M. Wilson
Christian A. Overton

March 10, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso, President
MCNC
Post Office Box 12889, 3021 East Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2889

Dear Joe:


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

Camden County Schools is already a Community Anchor Institution for MCNC. We look forward to the improved bandwidth, improved reliability and cost savings that the successful completion of this project will provide.

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

To become more internationally focused, Camden County School System has recently partnered with World View, a collaborative of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and North Carolina State University. This global initiative will launch international education for our students; however, World View's premise is based on the use of technology. This global perspective will require the improvements and reliability which will be accomplished with the completion of this broadband project.

Sincerely,



Ron Melchiorre
Superintendent

RM/ac

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman

SANDRA J. DUCKWALL
Vice Chairman

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GARRY W. MEIGGS
P. MICHAEL McLAIN



RANDELL K. WOODRUFF
County Manager

AVA GURGANUS
Clerk to the Board

JOHN S. MORRISON
County Attorney

February 24, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip S. Faison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Philip S. Faison, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners



CASWELL COUNTY

Office of the County Manager

March 9, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

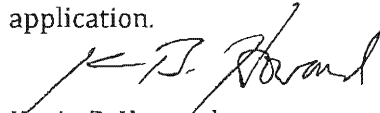
The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Caswell County. Our unemployment rate stands at 12.5%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 70 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. B. Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "K".

Kevin B. Howard
County Manager
Caswell County



CHATHAM COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, I am pleased to express our support for the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute (Kenan Institute).

The mission of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation is to position Chatham County as the preferred location for emerging growth companies. A key piece to attraction, retention and entrepreneurship is providing the necessary bandwidth for all sectors of business.

The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Chatham County is a significant one. The Initiative's plans to connect community colleges, libraries, and K12 schools in our county to direct fiber will create new opportunities for education and workforce training.

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

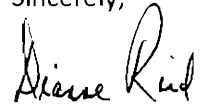
Since I came to the EDC over two years ago, one of the most prevalent complaints I've heard from businesses relates to the lack of broadband coverage in large swaths of the County. Several owners whose companies rely on websites note that they have to go to one of our towns to upload content. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. The EDC would like to see a county wide expansion of broadband availability through projects like the one proposed by MCNC and the Kenan Institute.

P.O. Box 1627 ♦ 118 West Street ♦ Pittsboro, NC 27312
919.542.8274 ♦ info@chathamcdc.org ♦ www.chathamcdc.org

opportunity is knocking!

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

Sincerely,

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

Dianne Reid
President

February 23, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

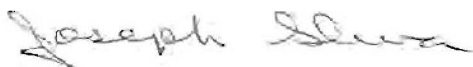
As the Chowan County IT Director I am endorsing the middle-mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) being submitted by the North Carolina Non-Profit, MCNC, and supported by the University of North Carolina's Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute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

I am also pleased to make a commitment to consider being a direct connect customer of this Middle Mile network where it might be advantageous to us.

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

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

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



Joseph Sliva
IT Director, Chowan County
305 W. Freemason St, Suite 2200
Edenton, NC 27932
(252) 482-9831
(252) 482-7329 (fax)

Robert H. Quinn

02/28/10

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

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

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

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

One of our economic development strategies is to support the expansion of area telecommunications infrastructure and interconnections to major metropolitan trading centers, substituting speed of broadband connectivity for geographic proximity. This would allow our residents and businesses to electronically work and conduct business within these trading centers from within their homes or local businesses. The proposed network expansion and creation of a redundant network is tightly linked to the success of that strategy.

Our area is particularly attractive to retirees; access to Broadband Technology would provide a major asset in attracting this growing market to our area. This major demographic is accustomed to broadband connectivity and it is an expected part of their lifestyle. Our economy is dependant on this growing market, without this technology we loose this economic stimulus potential through inability to compete.

**200 West Church Street
Edenton, NC 27932**

**Phone: 252-482-1679, Cell 252- 312-4166 Email: edentonbobquinn@embarqmail.com
Fax 252-482-1679**

Robert H. Quinn

02/28/10

Our county is a Tier One County, meaning it is in the lowest economic level, high unemployment and low average income. Our major industries are heavily affected by the economic downturn. Broadband Technology would improve our ability to attract diversified industrial development, attract more retirees and home networking businesses. Our unemployment rate stands at 11.2%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 28 % below North Carolina's average.

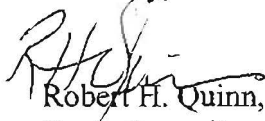
The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the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

Educationally this initiative would provide broader learning opportunities and in so doing improve the skill level of our available work force, thus providing graduates more opportunity to stay in their community. Broadband access would support job training/retraining, which is required as new employment opportunities become available.

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

We strongly support this vitally important project. It is of major significance to our town and our county. We wish you great success in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Quinn,
Town Councilman at Large
Edenton,
Chowan County, NC

200 West Church Street
Edenton, NC 27932

Phone: 252-482-1679, Cell 252- 312-4166 Email: edentonbobquinn@embarqmail.com
Fax 252-482-1679



February 25, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

The Town of Edenton is engaged in economic and population growth and business development. We understand that local businesses need to be better equipped for success in increasingly competitive markets and companies looking to expand into the area will find it more feasible to do business in Edenton if we have advanced broadband services. The Town of Edenton recently participated in a pilot project with the Foundation for the Renewal of Eastern North Carolina ForENC. The purpose of the pilot program was to position the community to be a true creative community. The purpose was to build on the unique assets of our community and to supplement these assets so as to retain and attract people who work in what is known as the "creative economy". The initiative identified advanced broadband connectivity in our community as a priority. High capacity, reliability and affordability of broadband services are a must for our community. In order to grow our population and to expand our economy, advanced broadband services are needed. Our Town Council has defined broadband as the "fourth utility" as vital to the community as water, sewer and electricity.

This initiative is particularly important to the Town of Edenton. Our unemployment rate stands at 11.2%, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to

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P.O. Box 300, Edenton, N.C. 27932 - (252) 482-2155
(252) 482-7377 - FAX

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

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

Sincerely yours,

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

Roland H. Vaughan
Mayor

February 25, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Currituck County. Our unemployment rate stands at 8.9%. Our personal income is 84% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Bishop', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter F. Bishop
Economic Development Director,
Currituck County



COUNTY OF CURRITUCK

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

S. Paul O'Neal, Chairman
O. Vance Aydlett, Vice-Chairman
J. Owen Etheridge
Gene A. Gregory
Barry C. Nelms
John D. Rorer
Janet L. Taylor

County Manager's Office
Post Office Box 39
Currituck, North Carolina 27929-0039
Telephone (252) 232-2075 / Fax (252) 232-3551
State Courier # 10-69-17

DANIEL F. SCANLON II, CPA
County Manager

DONALD I. McREE, JR.
County Attorney

GWEN H. KEENE, CMC
Clerk to the Board

February 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

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

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

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

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

Joseph A. Freddoso
February 24, 2010
Page 2

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

This initiative is particularly important to Currituck County. Our unemployment rate stands at 8.9%. Our personal income is 84% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

Sincerely,


S. Paul O'Neal
Chairman

February 25, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Currituck County. Our unemployment rate stands at 8.9%. Our personal income is 84% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Palmer
Chairman,
Currituck County Economic Development Advisory Board



COUNTY OF DARE

Office of the Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 1000, Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Warren Judge
Chairman

Allen Burrus
Vice-Chairman

Virginia Tillett
Mike Johnson
Richard Johnson
Max Dutton
Jack Shea

(252) 475-5700
Fax (252) 473-6312

Katie V. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Robert L. Outten
County Attorney

February 24, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

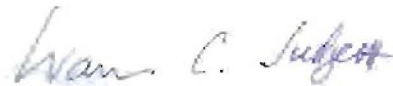
In addition, MCNC and the Kenan Institute are working with private sector service providers in our region to bring the benefits of the enhanced middle mile to consumers and small businesses in Dare County. The private providers will leverage the middle mile to

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

This initiative is particularly important to Dare County. Our unemployment rate stands at 15.5 percent, well above the state and national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Warren C. Judge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Warren Judge, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Post Office Box 1719, 102 Town Hall Drive
Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina 27948
252-449-5300
www.kdhnc.com

February 2, 2010

Mayor
RAYMOND P. STURZA, II

Mayor Pro Tem
ROBERT L. WOODARD

Commissioners
PAUL R. BUSKE
JEFFREY T. FINCH
BOB PEELE

Town Manager
DEBORA P. DIAZ

Assistant Town Manager
SHAWN R. MURPHY

Town Clerk
MARY E. QUIDLEY

Town Attorney
DAN L. MERRELL

Anita Johnson
NC Northeast Commission
119 West Water Street
Edenton, North Carolina 27932

REF: Broadband Initiative

Dear Ms. Johnson:

At our meeting on December 14, 2009 the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners unanimously approved our municipality's support of NCNC's and Kenan-Flagler Business School's initiative to bring the "middle mile" of Broadband Internet service to northeastern North Carolina. We firmly believe our rural area will benefit from the opportunities for business expansion and development, investments, and jobs that may be realized because of this technological advancement.

Please record our support and utilize our position in whatever manner may be beneficial.

Sincerely,

Raymond P. Sturza, II
Mayor

C: File



Information Technology Services
113 Market Street
Louisburg, NC 27549
Phone: 919.496.2583
Fax: 919.496.7441

www.franklincountync.us

March 26, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

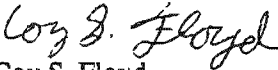
The application, designated the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, will build upon the existing North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) a high-speed optical backbone that already connects key public education institutions in our county to a statewide K20 education Intranet and the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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Franklin County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.3%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 70% of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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


Coy S. Floyd
I.T. Director
County of Franklin



Office of County Manager

113 Market Street
Louisburg, NC 27549

Phone: 919.496.5994

Fax: 919.496.2683

www.franklincountync.us

March 4, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso,

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

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

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

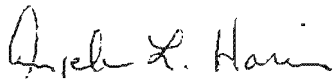
The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Franklin County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Franklin County. Our unemployment rate stands at 10.3%, well above the state and national average. Our personal income is 70 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you great success with this important application. If I may assist in any way please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela L. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Angela L. Harris
County Manager
County of Franklin



GASTON COUNTY

128 West Main Avenue
P.O. Box 1578
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053-1578

County Manager

Phone (704) 866-3101
Fax (704) 866-3147
e-mail: jwinters@co.gaston.nc.us

March 23, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

Mission Statement

Gaston County seeks to be among the finest counties in North Carolina. It will provide effective, efficient and affordable services leading to a safe, secure and healthy community, an environment for economic growth, and a favorable quality of life.

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

This initiative is particularly important to Gaston County. Our unemployment rate stands at 14.5%, well above the state and national average. Our average household income is \$51,034, much below the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I am pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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



Jan Winters
County Manager
Gaston County

Mission Statement

Gaston County seeks to be among the finest counties in North Carolina. It will provide effective, efficient and affordable services leading to a safe, secure and healthy community, an environment for economic growth, and a favorable quality of life.



Board of County Commissioners

113 Market Street
Louisburg, NC 27549

Phone: 919.496.5994

Fax: 919.496.2683

www.franklincountync.us

Resolution

Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties

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

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

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

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

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

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

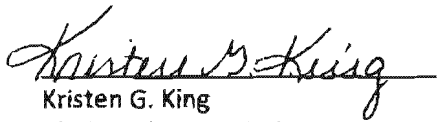
Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Franklin County applauds and supports the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative, led by MCNC, for its efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring availability of broadband infrastructure and promoting adoption and usage of broadband applications, products,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

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

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held in the Franklin County Administration Building on March 1, 2010.

Signature:



Kristen G. King
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County



Penny McGhee-Young
Chair

(County Seal)



Gates County Board of Commissioners

Graham Twine
Chairman
Hobbsville

Post Office Box 148

Gatesville, North Carolina 27938

Tel (252) 357-1240 / FAX (252) 357-0073

Toby L. Chappell, County Manager

Kenneth Jernigan
Vice-Chairman
Gates

Wade Askew
Eure

Carlton Nickens
Gatesville

Henry Jordan
Sunbury

RESOLUTION

Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas within North Carolina Counties

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Gates County Board of Commissioners recognize that expanding broadband access and services in unserved and underserved areas will stimulate new services offerings such as digital literacy, digital community engagement and distance education offerings; and

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

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

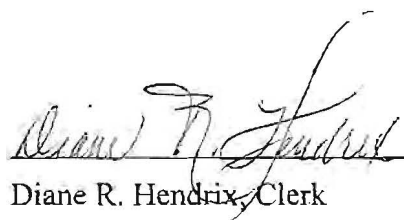
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Gates County Board of Commissioners request the NTIA strongly consider the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative as the highest priority for the state of North Carolina and its unserved and underserved communities.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Gates County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held in the Gates County Courthouse on March 3, 2010. The same appears in Minute Book No.12.



Graham L. Twine, Chairman



Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk



Gates County Board of Commissioners

Graham Twine
Chairman
Hobbsville

*Post Office Box 148
Gatesville, North Carolina 27938
Tel (252) 357-1240 / FAX (252) 357-0073
Toby L. Chappell, County Manager*

Kenneth Jerrigan
Vice-Chairman
Gates

Wade Askew
Eure

Carlton Nickens
Gatesville

Henry Jordan
Sunbury

March 3, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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

This initiative is particularly important to Gates County. Our unemployment rate stands at 6.7%. Our personal income is \$24,302, 62.9 % of the national average. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment

Mr. Joseph A. Freddoso
March 3, 2010
Page 2

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Twine", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Graham L. Twine, Chairman
Gates County Board of Commissioners



COUNTY OF GRANVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

141 WILLIAMSBORO STREET, POST OFFICE BOX 906, OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27565

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER
(919) 693-5240

March 1, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Freddoso:

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

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

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

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

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

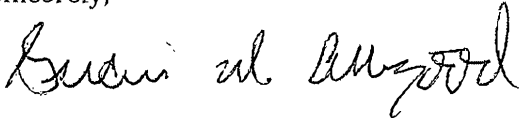
This initiative is particularly important to Granville County. We are poised for significant growth based on our proximity to the Research Triangle. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Brian M. Alligood
County Manager

pc: ✓ Board of Commissioners



February 24, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

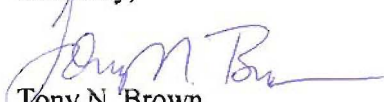
The opportunity of the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative for Halifax County is a significant one. Through MCNC and NCREN, the initiative will increase significantly the amount of bandwidth available for Community Anchor Institutions in our County. The North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative involves plans to connect several Community Colleges, Libraries, K-12 schools, Public health and safety facilities in our region and our county to direct fiber. This will allow these institutions to greatly increase their bandwidth at stable costs.

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

This initiative is particularly important to our county. Our unemployment rate stands at 13.6%, well above the state and national average. 24% of our population is below the poverty level and over 33% of our residents are Medicaid eligible. Enhanced access to broadband has been proven in several studies to increase economic prosperity, educational attainment and enhance health care options across the globe. I'm pleased that the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative includes our county. There is no funding available, outside of this initiative, for the county to undertake such a project without the help of the Kenan Institute and MCNC.

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

Sincerely,


Tony N. Brown
County Manager



**Haywood County
Economic Development Commission**

144 Industrial Park Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-456-3737 • 828-452-1352 fax
mclasby@haywoodnc.net

Mark B. Clasby, Executive Director

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Joe,

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

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

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

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

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