



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickland  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator  
Department of Commerce  
Herbert Clark Hoover Building, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money.

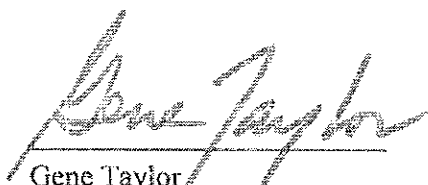
Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, especially the Delta area, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.


The Mississippi congressional delegation appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if we may be of further assistance.


Sincerely,

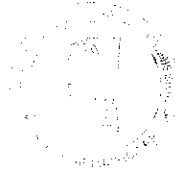
Thad Cochran  
United States Senator

Roger Wicker  
United States Senator

  
Gene Taylor  
United States Representative

  
Travis W. Childers  
United States Representative

  
Gregg Harper  
United States Representative



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
**WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION**

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

We are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission was created by the Governor and the Mississippi Legislature in 2005 to promote the efficient use of public resources to ensure that law enforcement personnel and essential public health and safety personnel have effective communications services available in emergency situations. The Commission is in the process of implementing a statewide wireless communications system (Mississippi Wireless Information Network or MSWIN).

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

We appreciate the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher B. Epps", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Christopher B. Epps  
Chairman

# Mississippi Public Service Commission



**BRANDON PRESLEY, Chairman**  
NETTLETON – THIRD DISTRICT  
**LYNN POSEY, Vice-Chairman**  
UNION CHURCH – FIRST DISTRICT  
**LEONARD L. BENTZ, Commissioner**  
BILOXI – SECOND DISTRICT

**BRIAN U. RAY**  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
(601)961-5400

**KATHERINE COLLIER**  
ATTORNEY  
**JOEL BENNETT, DIR.**  
FINANCE & PERSONNEL  
**MARK McCARVER, DIR.**  
GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

March 5, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, we are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

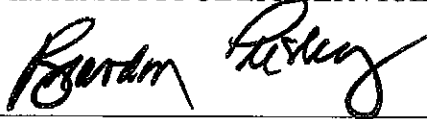
We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow our constituents in unserved and underserved rural areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. With the funding of this application, our constituents face the promise of a substantially shortened wait for Internet access. In essence, the Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact our Office if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

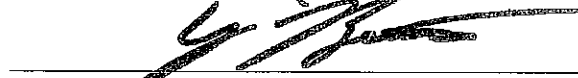
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Brandon Presley, Chairman



Lynn Posey, Vice Chairman



Leonard Bentz, Commissioner



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
HALEY BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

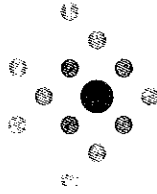
We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The MDEQ appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Trudy D. Fisher  
Executive Director

TDF:jar



*Mississippi Technology Alliance*

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi Technology Alliance, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Technology Alliance appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

James A. "Tony" Jeff  
President/CEO  
Mississippi Technology Alliance



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
STEPHEN B. SIMPSON, COMMISSIONER

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:


On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

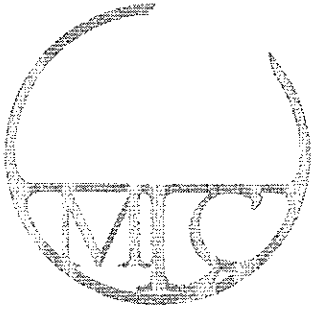
We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Department of Public Safety appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen B. Simpson  
Commissioner, DPS





# Mississippi Library Commission

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of Mississippi Library Commission, I write to express the agency's full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

The application addresses our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, to close the broadband gap, and to spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. In addition to providing residents in unserved/underserved areas and economically distressed areas with enhanced access to broadband, the proposal saves lives and money through improved public safety and emergency medical care information.

Under the Governor's plan, broadband is used to empower Mississippians with information through the state's established network of libraries. Creating this informed citizenry costs less than \$.50 per person and includes:

- Arming citizens with a **universal library card** to access all Mississippi public and community/junior college libraries, physically and electronically. Residents will use these library resources for job searches, education, and research. Further by linking the libraries and WIN job centers, registered job searchers will have access to their records and can communicate more effectively with job counselors.
- Increasing the technological savvy of Mississippi residents, particularly youth, in rural high poverty areas through **smart devices**, prepares individuals to enter or re-enter the workforce. Targeted populations will gain confidence with 21<sup>st</sup> communication business tools while gaining access to internet resources for training and job searching.
- Keeping Mississippians informed on state/local emergencies, available services, local & statewide events, and library services by placing **digital signage** in public libraries. This strategically-placed technology provides a mechanism for notifying local residents of statewide/regional/local emergencies, public health advisories/warnings, and WIN job center information specific to a local area/county.

The Governor's proposal improves the lives of Mississippians by creatively using broadband as the mechanism to deliver local/statewide services. NTIA is strongly encouraged to seriously consider the exciting approach outlined in the application.

Sincerely,

  
Sharman Bridges Smith  
Executive Director



# MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2548 • Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158-2548 • 408 West Parkway Place 39157 • 601-853-6733 • Fax 601-853-6746 • 1-800-898-0251 • www.MSMAonline.com

March 11, 2010

**PRESIDENT**  
Randy Easterling, MD  
*Vicksburg*

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Tim J. Alford, MD  
*Kosciusko*

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
J. Patrick Barrett, MD  
*Jackson*

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
J. Clay Hays, Jr., MD  
*Jackson*

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Sam Holdiness  
*Medical Student, Jackson*

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*Executive Director*

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*General Counsel*

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*Director of Government Affairs*

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*Director of Finance  
and Administration*

Becky Wells  
*Director of Membership, Specialty  
Society and Alliance Services*

Karen A. Evers  
*Director of Communications*

Susie Pettit  
*Director of Education*

Janet Wagner  
*Executive Assistant*

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Mississippi State Medical Association, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi State Medical Association appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Charmain Kanosky  
Executive Director

**The Physicians Who Care for Mississippi.**



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL MIKO  
BEASLEY DENSON

PHONE (601) 656-5251 FAX (601) 650-7496  
EMAIL: [beasley.denson@choctaw.org](mailto:beasley.denson@choctaw.org)  
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS  
P.O. BOX 6010 • 101 INDUSTRIAL ROAD  
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

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Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, I am writing to express our full encouragement and support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the NTIA.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. The Tribe has identified immediate needs on and near the Choctaw Indian Reservation in east central Mississippi that can be addressed by this particular program, and we are eager to see it funded. We are a Tribe of over 10,000 enrolled members, residing in rural, economically depressed, unserved areas of the State.

As Mississippi's only Federally-recognized American Indian community, we believe that the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns regionally and locally, and that this Broadband program will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband internet capabilities. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi, and will help to benefit the Tribe.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance. My contact information is at the top of this letterhead.

Sincerely,

  
Miko Beasley Denson



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**HALEY BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR**

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL OFFICE  
MIKE ARMOUR  
DIRECTOR**

March 11, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Appalachian Regional Commission, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

I understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

I believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Appalachian Regional Commission appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike Armour  
Director, Appalachian Regional Commission



March 4, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Mississippi MED-1, State Medical Assistance Team, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

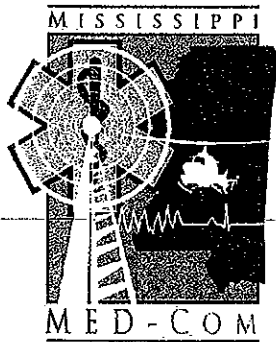
We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these key concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. These components are especially vital to our State Medical Assistance Team for providing emergency medical care in our field hospital system after the impact of a disaster. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

Mississippi MED-1 appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Wilson".

Jonathan Wilson, RN, BSN, CEN  
Team Commander  
Mississippi MED-1, State Medical Assistance Team



**Mississippi MED-COM**

2500 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39216  
**(888) UMC-2345**  
(601) 984-4367  
<http://msmedcom.umsmed.edu>

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Mississippi Med-Com, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. This application specifically addresses the needs of Mississippi Med-Com in improving our support to rural hospitals and public safety providers throughout Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in un-served and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

Mississippi Med-Com appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

David Powe, Ed.D  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, Chief Administrative Officer  
The University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Mississippi Med-Com



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR  
**MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
GRAY SWOOPE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the Mississippi Development Authority, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Development Authority appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gray Swoope", written over a horizontal line.

Gray Swoope  
Executive Director

GS:ks



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunication & Information  
Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi State Department of Health, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi State Department of Health appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Lucius".

Mike Lucius, CAO  
Director, Office of Health Administration



March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS), I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

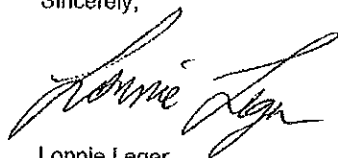
ITS appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
David L. Litchliter

LONI is confident in MISSION's organization to be a leader 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lonnie Leger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L".

Lonnie Leger  
Director of Networking  
LONI  
[lonnie@lsu.edu](mailto:lonnie@lsu.edu)  
225-578-8391



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HALEY R. BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR

STEPHEN B. SIMPSON  
COMMISSIONER

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the MS Office of Homeland Security, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The MS Office of Homeland Security appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



J.W. Ledbetter, Executive Director  
MS Office of Homeland Security



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Tom Burnham, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Education, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Department of Education appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Burnham".

Tom Burnham  
State Superintendent of Education



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING**

Hank M. Bounds  
Commissioner of Higher Education

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to you to ask that you give full consideration to Mississippi's application for Round Two of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program submitted recently by the Office of the Governor.

When I became Commissioner of Higher Education in July 2009, I established as one of my major priorities the goal of increasing the number of degreed individuals in our state to meet the national average. While there have been many major improvements in Mississippi's educational systems at all levels, we are still lagging far behind other states in many areas including degree completion.

To meet this goal and move Mississippi forward, we must expand access to the Internet in our state. We need to be able to give all our students and parents, even those living in the rural and economically disadvantaged areas that make up much of Mississippi, the tools they need to graduate from high school and earn higher degrees. Our public universities, like others across the nation, are increasing the number of online degree programs and online courses offered every year. Enhancing our network will allow more nontraditional students access to these programs and provide a free information resource to help secondary students prepare for college.

Thank you again for your full consideration of Mississippi's application. Our state would certainly benefit from this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hank M. Bounds".

Hank M. Bounds  
Commissioner of Higher Education



# Delta State University

Office of the President

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

On behalf of Delta State University, I am writing to you to express my full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program application recently submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

While the world's reliance on the Internet continues to grow, there are many rural and disadvantaged areas in Mississippi that still do not have access to broadband services. Moving the state forward depends on our ability to give our young people the resources they need to be successful students at our institutions, knowledgeable employees at our businesses and participating citizens in our communities. Enhancing broadband coverage through this important program can help us realize these goals.

Thank you for giving Mississippi's application your full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filbert", written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Dr. John Filbert  
President, Delta State University



Mississippi University

for Women

*A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men*

Office of the President  
1100 College St. MUW-1600  
Columbus, MS 39701-5800  
(662) 329-7100  
(662) 329-7297 Fax

[www.muw.edu](http://www.muw.edu)

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

I am writing to you to express my full support for the application recently submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, for Round Two of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program.

Research shows that moving Mississippi forward hinges on increasing degree production in our state to meet the national average. At the Mississippi University for Women, we are doing our part to reach this goal by beginning the implementation of a robust e-College that we hope will appeal to traditional and nontraditional students from across the state. Increasing access to the Internet will be very important to this program's success. Unfortunately, many areas of the state remain underserved.

Dependence on broadband services at all our universities and educational entities at all levels will only continue to grow. Federal help to expand broadband coverage in Mississippi would absolutely ease that process for our state and ensure success for essential programs like the e-College initiative at MUW.

Thank you for your consideration of Mississippi's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudia A. Limbert".

Claudia Limbert, Ph.D.  
President



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications  
& Information Administration/NTIA  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), I am writing to you to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program application recently submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

MVSU lies in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, a critical region of our state that is currently chronically underserved in many ways. Too often, students from the Delta and other disadvantaged regions of Mississippi enter MVSU's doors unprepared for college. Closing the broadband gap can help our schools, libraries and other educational entities ensure that our students are college ready despite some of the significant challenges they face.

Moving Mississippi forward depends on ensuring the Delta is able to recruit and retain new businesses and provide them with capable employees. Giving our students additional resources by expanding our network coverage will undoubtedly help us meet that goal.

Thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna H. Oliver".

Donna H. Oliver, Ph.D.  
President





# THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Office of the President

118 College Drive #5001  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
Tel: 601.266.5001  
Fax: 601.266.5756  
president@usm.edu

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

The University of Southern Mississippi strongly endorses the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA).

Two critical weaknesses of Mississippi's technology infrastructure have placed the state at an economic disadvantage. The absence of a high speed fiber optic backbone hinders Mississippi's four research universities and the University of Mississippi Medical Center from being nationally competitive. Limited broadband availability poses challenges for Mississippi citizens and businesses. These two technology hurdles have been widely discussed and documented.

The Round 2 BTOP proposal presents a unique opportunity to address both weaknesses of the state's technology infrastructure and, by doing so, foster economic development, propel education into the 21st century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

We are committed to serving as a core community anchor node within the proposed fiber optic backbone for the State of Mississippi and encourage NTIA's favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Martha D. Saunders'.

Martha D. Saunders  
President



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*Office of the President*

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Mississippi State University strongly endorses the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted to the NTIA by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

Two critical weaknesses of Mississippi's technology infrastructure have placed the state at an economic disadvantage. The absence of a high speed fiber optic backbone hinders Mississippi's four research universities and the University of Mississippi Medical Center from being nationally competitive. Limited broadband availability poses challenges for Mississippi citizens and businesses. These two technology hurdles have been widely discussed and documented.

The Round 2 BTOP proposal presents a unique opportunity to address both weaknesses of the state's technology infrastructure. The initiative would foster economic development, propel education into the 21st century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

We are committed to serving as a core community anchor node within the proposed fiber optic backbone for the State of Mississippi and encourage NTIA's favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark E. Keenum".

Mark E. Keenum, President



*The*  
***University of Mississippi***

Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

Office of the Chancellor  
Post Office Box 1848  
University, MS 38677-1848  
(662) 915-7111  
Fax: (662) 915-5935  
E-mail: [chancldr@olemiss.edu](mailto:chancldr@olemiss.edu)

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

The University of Mississippi strongly endorses the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the NTIA.

Two critical weaknesses of Mississippi's technology infrastructure have placed the state at an economic disadvantage. The absence of a high speed fiber optic backbone hinders Mississippi's four research universities and the University of Mississippi Medical Center from being nationally competitive. Limited broadband availability poses challenges for Mississippi citizens and businesses. These two technology hurdles have been widely discussed and documented.

The Round 2 BTOP proposal presents a unique opportunity to address both weaknesses of the state's technology infrastructure and, by doing so, foster economic development, propel education into the 21st century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

We are committed to serving as a core community anchor node within the proposed fiber optic backbone for the State of Mississippi and encourage NTIA's favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Jones  
Chancellor



March 8, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications  
& Information Administration/NTIA  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to you to ask that you give your full consideration to the application recently submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, for Round Two of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Although broadband Internet service has become a standard learning tool in our schools and universities across the country, many rural and disadvantaged regions of Mississippi remain underserved or not served at all. In order to move our state forward and provide our students with all the resources they need to be successful, we must enhance our network coverage to give all Mississippians access. In a very difficult economic time, this program would provide us with the opportunity to improve our infrastructure and come through the recession a better, stronger state.

Despite the budget challenges we face, Mississippi cannot afford to lose any ground in its educational systems, especially when there is still so much ground to make up. Using this program to expand our broadband coverage would certainly be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Norris Allen Edney  
President



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER

Office of the Vice Chancellor  
for Health Affairs

2500 North State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39216-4505  
(601) 984-1010

Friday, March 12, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of The University of Mississippi Medical Center, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

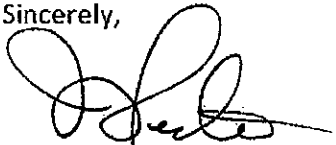
We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to hospitals, schools, libraries, and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these key concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. These components are especially vital to our ability to allow populations in medically underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband ensuring speedier point of entry to medical facilities. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi and our communities.

Lawrence E. Strickling  
March 12, 2010  
Page Two

The University of Mississippi Medical Center appreciates the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

James E. Keeton, M.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

JK/ob



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

(601) 979-2323  
FAX NO. (601) 979-2948

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

It is my pleasure on behalf of Jackson State University (JSU) to offer a sound endorsement of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the NTIA.

Two critical weaknesses of Mississippi's technology infrastructure have placed the state at an economic disadvantage. The absence of a high speed fiber optic backbone hinders Mississippi's four research universities from being nationally competitive, and limited broadband availability poses challenges for Mississippi citizens and businesses. These two technology hurdles have been widely discussed and documented.

This proposed effort presents a unique opportunity to address both weaknesses of the state's technology infrastructure. It will in turn foster economic development, propel education into the 21st century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

This is an important endeavor. I appreciate the opportunity to sanction it and pledge our full commitment to its success.

NTIA's favorable consideration of the application is appreciated and we look forward to assisting you in meeting the objectives of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Mason, Jr.", written in black ink.

Ronald Mason, Jr.  
President



STATE BOARD FOR  
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive badly needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significantly positive impact on the State of Mississippi.

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Clark".

Eric Clark, Ph.D.  
Executive Director





## MISSISSIPPI RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Dr. Cecil D. Burge  
Vice President for Research  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
P.O. Box 5116  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406  
Phone: (601) 266-5116  
Fax: (601) 266-5755  
cecil.burge@usm.edu

Dr. Felix Okojie  
Vice President for Research  
Jackson State University  
P.O. Box 17095  
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Phone: (601) 979-2931  
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faokojie@ccaix.jsums.edu

Dr. David Shaw  
Vice President for Research  
Mississippi State University  
P.O. Box 6343  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 325-3570  
Fax: (662) 325-8028  
dshaw@research.msstate.edu

Dr. Alice M. Clark, Chair  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
The University of Mississippi  
304 Lyceum  
University, MS 38677  
Phone: (662) 915-7583  
Fax: (662) 915-5202  
vcrsp@olemiss.edu

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

The Mississippi Research Consortium, a collation between the four research universities in Mississippi, strongly endorses the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the NTIA.

Although Mississippi's research universities were charter members of Internet2, there is a hole within the current national broadband infrastructure over the state of Mississippi. This lack of redundant connectivity will be made even deeper by networks being built out with BTOP funding from Round 1. This lack of adequate connectivity threatens Mississippi's four research universities ability to collaborate with other national and international research organizations and remain nationally competitive.

The Round 2 BTOP proposal presents a unique opportunity to address this challenge in the state's technology infrastructure. This in turn will foster economic development, propel education into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

The MRC encourages NTIA's favorable consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Clark, Chair

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

### WARNER F. McBRIDE

District 10  
Lafayette, Panola and Tallahatchie Counties  
7697 Eureka Road  
Courtland, Mississippi 38620

Capitol (601) 359-3324  
wmcbride@house.ms.gov

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Transportation, Chairman  
Appropriations  
Conservation and Water Resources  
Judiciary B  
Local and Private Legislation  
Rules  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

National Conference  
of State Legislatures

March 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Mississippi Broadband Task Force, an entity formed by the Office of the Governor, addresses these specific concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warner F. McBride".

Warner F. McBride



DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

The Delta Health Alliance (DHA) – a community based 501(c)3 organization focused on addressing critical health issues in the Mississippi Delta - strongly supports the Mississippi Office of the Governor's proposed BTOP project. The Office of the Governor's proposal is a comprehensive plan that will address telecommunication concerns and improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Residents in rural and underserved areas will see the greatest benefit. This system provides desperately needed access to reliable broadband.

The DHA has been supporting community based initiatives in the Delta since 2001. One of our most important initiatives involves assisting rural healthcare clinics and hospitals with the design, implementation, testing and support of a reliable, region-wide electronic health record (EHR) system. Our EHR network has been working one-on-one with rural providers to overcome technical barriers since 2006. The DHA network currently includes 20 active clinical locations with 243 providers using the live system, and 673,176 patients active in our EHR database. The majority of clinics connect via DSL or cable but still struggle with unreliable or intermittently slow connections. We have a significant number of additional physicians that would like to join the network but who are unwilling until we can offer lower costs to help sustain the networks and can demonstrate more reliability in speed and access of the system.

As a partner to the Office of the Governor's proposal, the DHA will provide assistance to and coordinate with programs impacting the Mississippi Delta region, including conducting community outreach, technology assessments and assistance in the development of network systems. The DHA can serve as a valuable resource in reaching out to rural clinicians and hospitals, ensuring that they are actively involved in all stages as the program evolves.

We have been honored to have been involved in planning for this proposal and sincerely appreciate the Governor's commitment to ensuring that the network will be designed to meet actual needs in our communities. The Delta Health Alliance appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen C. Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Karen C. Fox, PhD  
President & CEO

# MHCA

Mississippi Health Care Association  
*Leading the way in long-term care.*

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Mississippi Health Care Association, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Health Care Association, founded in 1953, represents over 200 long term care facilities that include some 18,000 residents and 21,000 staff across Mississippi. Due to the rural nature of the state, there are many facilities and individuals who are still utilizing "dial up" services in order to access the Internet. For example, this particularly places a hardship on facilities that are currently unable to meet the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services directive to transmit important patient data via high-speed Internet. Also, with the advent of Health Information Technology and the proposed enhanced network, our facilities would be able to interface with other related health care providers, i.e. hospitals, hospices, end stage renal dialysis facilities. The network would improve communication which would lead to improved resident outcomes thus preventing the unnecessary transfer of our residents which could be detrimental to their health and safety.

The Mississippi Health Care Association believes the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of all Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will ultimately save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, when funded, will have a tremendously positive impact on all citizens of the State of Mississippi, particularly those in long term care settings whose quality of care and quality of life would be enhanced.

The Mississippi Health Care Association appreciates the opportunity to endorse this application and also appreciates NTIA's consideration of this application.

If you should need any further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Phipps Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "H".

Vanessa Phipps Henderson  
Executive Director



MISSISSIPPI NURSES ASSOCIATION  
31 Woodgreen Place • Madison MS 39110

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of Mississippi Nurses Association, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

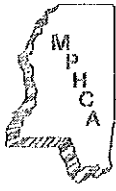
The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

The Mississippi Nurses Association appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricki R. Garrett".

Ricki Garrett, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Est. 1981

# MISSISSIPPI PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

6400 Lakeover Road / Suite A / Jackson, MS 39213 / (601) 981-1817 / Fax (601) 981-1217

Executive Director:  
ROBERT M. PUGH, MPH  
Email: rmpugh@mphca.com

March 22, 2010

E	Margaret A. Gray, DPA
X	President
E	
C	Atrelia Jones-Taylor, MBA
U	President-Elect
T	
I	James D. Nunnally
V	Immediate Past-President
E	
C	Sabrina Howze
D	Secretary
M	
M	Pam T. Poole
I	Treasurer
T	
T	Shirley Ellis
E	Member-at-Large
E	
E	Hope Bratey-Thomley
	Member-at-Large

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

The Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, Inc. (MPHCA) and its 21 Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified health centers are very supportive to the Office of the Governor Haley Barbour, for its initiatives in submitting an application to the NTIA for participation in its Broadband R2 project. In Mississippi, each CHC is geographically located throughout the state in both rural and urban areas. In 2008, approximately 300,000 patients received primary care, preventive and many other professional services. CHCs are staffed with board certified/eligible physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, and other auxiliary providers.

Currently the state as a whole has limited access to broadband services. In many rural areas, service is limited and non-existence. Most CHCs broadband services consist of DSL, not high speed DSL, however in some urban areas there is access to higher speeds (T1) connections. Increasing the state's Broadband capacity would allow for the rollout of a Fiber- optic network that can facilitate the state's demands for the adoptions of newer technologies such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs) Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) and the need to share important information across many organizations.

MPHCA understands our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

MPHCA believes the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money.

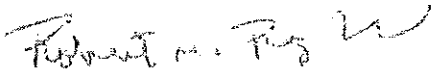
Strickling Letter  
March 22, 2010

Page 2

Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

MPHCA appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert M. Pugh".

Robert M. Pugh, MPH  
Executive Director

RMP/vn



## INDEPENDENT NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

Riverhill Tower, 1675 Lakeland Drive, Suite 202, Jackson, MS 39216

(601) 364-5174

(601) 364-5175 (Fax)

inha620@msn.com

www.msinha.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Howard  
Benny Hubbard  
Brent Tice  
Jiadine Cleveland  
Brain Cain  
Conner Cain  
Jack Bradshaw  
Troy Griffin

**The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling**  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alice W. Mitchell, M.S.

Dear Secretary:


On behalf of Independent Nursing Home Association, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

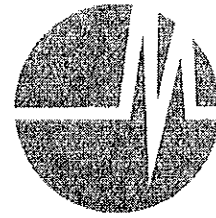
We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The Independent Nursing Home Association appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Executive Director

MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



March 12, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications &  
Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230

116 Woodgreen Crossing

Madison, MS 39130-1909

Dear Secretary:

Madison, MS 39130-1909

On behalf of the Mississippi Hospital Association, I am writing to express support for the Round Two *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)* application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. We support this grant project as a mechanism to enhance broadband capabilities in Mississippi in order close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. We represent 115 hospitals in the state of Mississippi and know that having access to broadband is an important component of narrowing the technological divide between hospitals in urban versus rural communities.

(601) 982-5251

(601) 982-5251

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor will move Mississippi forward, addressing current gaps in broadband coverage; particularly in underserved and economically distressed areas of Mississippi. We are particularly interested in the impact the grant will have on improved access to timely and relevant healthcare information in rural communities that currently lack broadband coverage. By improving broadband access, the grant will improve and advance the lives of Mississippians through enhanced public safety and emergency medical care, saving lives and money.

Fax: (601) 982-5200

[www.mhfa.net](http://www.mhfa.net)

The Mississippi Hospital Association appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application and pledges support for achievement of the grant's objectives if funded. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Marcella L. McKay, PhD  
Chief Operating Officer



Information & Quality  
HEALTHCARE

385-B Highland Colony Parkway  
Suite 504  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
Tel: 601.957.1575, ext. 247  
Fax: 601.956.1713  
E-Mail: [jmcilwain@msqio.sdps.org](mailto:jmcilwain@msqio.sdps.org)

March 4, 2010

JAMES S. McILWAIN, JR., MD  
*President*

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH), I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

IQH appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. McIlwain, MD', written over a white background.

James S. McIlwain, MD  
President and CEO



American Heart | American Stroke  
Association | Association  
*Learn and Live.*

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the American Heart Association, Greater Southeast Affiliate, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

The American Heart Association's national Mission: Lifeline program depends on a reliable system of communication between public safety officials and healthcare entities across the state. This program would tremendously benefit the ability to provide high level care for Mississippians who suffer heart and stroke emergencies.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

The American Heart Association, Greater Southeast Affiliate, appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Willingham  
Senior Director, Mission: Lifeline  
American Heart Association, Greater Southeast Affiliate  
678-224-2054  
[mike.willingham@heart.org](mailto:mike.willingham@heart.org)

**CHARLES W. PICKERING, SR.**

ATTORNEY - MEDIATOR

POST OFFICE BOX 465

PETAL, MISSISSIPPI 39465

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, RETIRED  
FORMER U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE  
30 YEARS TRIAL EXPERIENCE  
COMPLETED MEDIATION TRAINING AT HARVARD

PHONE 601-554-0690

FAX 601-554-0691

EMAIL CPICKERING.MEDIATION@MSB-MS.NET

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

Approval of this request will help create jobs and facilitate growth. It will close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel throughout Mississippi. This program will benefit law enforcement, first responders, public safety, medical personnel and others responding and working as a result of weather disaster, a terrorist attack, automobile accident, or any other event that would involve public safety and the medical community. If this application is granted, it will provide enormous benefit to four hundred (400) ambulance, emergency service vehicles, and emergency departments; three hundred (300) public safety and medical institutions; and five thousand (5000) emergency service workers. The approval of this grant will also benefit Mississippi's fifteen (15) community junior colleges, the Stennis Space Center, and the Waterways Experiment Station

The application will improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. This application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

I will appreciate very much the NTIA's careful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

CWP/ch



## Mississippi State Senate

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Economic Development, Vice Chairman  
Agriculture  
Appropriations  
Business and Financial Institutions  
Environment Protection, Conservation  
and Water Resources  
Oil, Gas and Other Minerals  
Veterans & Military Affairs

### SENATOR HASKINS MONTGOMERY

34th District  
Jasper, Jones, Scott and Smith Counties  
Post Office Box 611  
Bay Springs, MS 39422  
Email: [hmontgomery@senate.ms.gov](mailto:hmontgomery@senate.ms.gov)

### CONTACT:

Capitol: 601-359-3244  
Fax: 601-359-9210  
Home: 601-764-3068  
Cell: 601-670-0807

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

I am writing to express my full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

I understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, I believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

Thanking you in advance for your every consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haskins Montgomery".

Senator Haskins Montgomery



The Citizens Bank<sup>SM</sup>

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of The Citizens Bank, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

The Citizens Bank appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jackie Hester  
Vice President & Marketing

# CONTINUUM

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

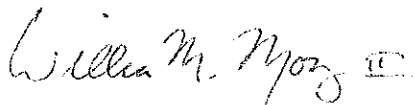
On behalf of Continuum, LLC, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

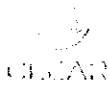
Continuum, LLC appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



William M. Mounger, II  
Chairman, CEO





4400 Carillon Point  
Kirkland, WA 98033

p: 425-216-7786  
f: 425-216-7900  
[www.clear.com](http://www.clear.com)

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of Clearwire, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses the need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety organizations. The proposed project will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of those in Mississippi by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

Clearwire appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (425) 216-7786.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Noelle Beams".

Noelle Beams  
Clearwire



CenturyLink™

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of CenturyLink in support of the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application of the state of Mississippi for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This letter will serve as a non binding letter of intent.

CenturyLink is, and has been, committed to providing broadband access in north Mississippi. As the incumbent telecommunications provider, we are the provider of roughly 19,500 access lines and we have already made broadband access available to over 95% of our customers in our 'franchised' area. The Mississippi BTOP application provides an important opportunity for all broadband providers to meet the increased broadband needs of businesses and consumers throughout Mississippi. That said, we trust this project will not subsidize another provider to enter 'franchised' area like ours in North Mississippi which is already well served.

It appears the MS BTOP project is an effort to increase broadband capacity and backhaul options to support more vibrant and diverse wireless broadband service offerings. In addition, the project would appear to facilitate increased broadband coverage to end users. For example, as we understand the network deployment plans, the project would allow providers to begin offering wireless broadband services to end users in areas where we currently do not offer service today, and where broadband is not currently available from any other provider. If that is true, CenturyLink can draw upon its extensive experience with broadband deployment to support efforts to expand the availability of broadband services to end users that do not have access today.

CenturyLink is eager to work with the State to make use of the broadband facilities for which Mississippi is seeking BTOP funding. Assuming Mississippi's application is granted, we will begin discussions with the State regarding mutually acceptable locations and timing for additional access to broadband access. We particularly support and endorse Mississippi's effort to expand broadband services to end users throughout the

state, and we look forward to working with the State and its other partners in the MS BTOP project. Obviously, a formal agreement will be required in the event the State obtains a grant under BTOP, but feel free to include this letter as a non binding commitment of our support in your application.

Good luck, and hopefully we will be working together on this project in the near future. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by telephone at 501 241-6401 or by e-mail at [john.dreher@centurylink.com](mailto:john.dreher@centurylink.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Dreher" followed by a stylized monogram or initials.

John Dreher  
General Manager, Mississippi  
CenturyLink



Entergy Mississippi, Inc.  
308 E. Pearl St. (39201)  
P.O. Box 1640  
Jackson, MS 39215  
Tel 601 969 2338  
Fax 601 969 2406

Robert C. Grenfell  
Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Entergy Mississippi, Inc., I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

Entergy Mississippi appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Grenfell".  
Robert C. Grenfell



General Electric

Batesville Composites Operation

1450 Highway 6 East  
Batesville, Mississippi 38606  
United States

March 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

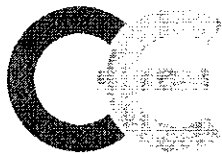
We are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Mississippi Broadband Task Force, an entity formed by the Office of the Governor, addresses these specific concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



**LSP Energy Limited Partnership**  
*A Complete Energy Company*

200 Industrial Drive  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.563.1330  
662.563.3531 Fax

March 16, 2010

Mississippi Development Authority  
P. O. Box 849  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Ms. Smith,

We are writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Mississippi Broadband Task Force, an entity formed by the Office of the Governor, addresses these specific concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sandra C. Darby  
Asset Manager



The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

18 March 2010

Dear Secretary:

Southern Crossroads strongly endorses the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi, to the NTIA.

Technology inventories of states within the Southeast and nationwide over the past several years have consistently highlighted the lack of a high speed, fiber optic, research and education network within Mississippi. The absence of this infrastructure hinders Mississippi's four research universities and the University of Mississippi Medical Center from being regionally and nationally competitive. Furthermore, limited broadband availability poses challenges for Mississippi citizens and businesses.

The Round 2 BTOP proposal presents a unique opportunity for Mississippi and its research universities to address weaknesses of the state's technology infrastructure and, by doing so, foster economic development, propel education into the 21st century, and keep Mississippi's research universities nationally competitive.

We strongly support the efforts of Mississippi to build out their regional optical network, and we look forward to them joining the community of states that have already made this commitment and investment in the future. As a result of this project, Southern Crossroads anticipates an even stronger relationship with our friends and colleagues at the Mississippi research universities, and we encourage NTIA's favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Hutchins  
Southern Crossroads  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332



**David Gates**  
President  
Mississippi Division

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Atmos Energy, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

Atmos Energy appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Gates".

David Gates  
President





March 10, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Mississippi, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

Increasingly, the BBB's services are being offered via the Internet, making them faster, more responsive and cheaper. For example, disputes can be solved faster using the Internet than by traditional methods. The increasing use of wireless devices can make consumers get better information in real time, helping them make better-informed business decisions. Adequate broadband connectivity is crucial to make sure our citizens can take advantage of this technology to improve their lives.

The BBB Serving Mississippi appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (601) 605-6731, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Moak, APR  
President/CEO

**Better Business Bureau of Mississippi**

P. O. Box 3302 • Ridgeland, MS 39158 • Phone: 601.856.9357 • 800.987.8294 • Fax: 601.856.9331

# Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.

63470 Hwy. 25 N.  
PO Box 117  
Smithville, MS 38870

Tel. (662) 651-4131

Fax. (662) 651-4711

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

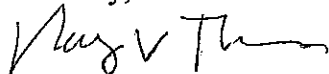
On behalf of the Smithville Telephone Company, I am writing to express support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

A provider of rural broadband services since 2001, the Smithville Telephone Company believes that this application could potentially provide our company much needed lower cost middle mile access to the Internet backbone. This would allow us to continue our plans to provide higher speed services to our growing base of broadband customers at reasonable prices.

The Smithville Telephone Company appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Roger V. Thompson  
President  
Smithville Telephone Company  
robert@traceroad.net

CENTRAL APPLIANCE CO., INC.  
1833 Denny Avenue  
Pascagoula, MS 39567  
(228)762-0901  
Donna R. Anderson

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Central Appliance Co., Inc., I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

Central Appliance Co., Inc. appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Donna R. Anderson



**Willmut Gas**  
*The Natural Choice*

315 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 1649  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39403-1649  
PHONE (601) 544-6001  
TELECOPIER (601) 544-8517

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Willmut Gas Company, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. Further, we believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals.

The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as those in economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact upon all Mississippians.

Willmut Gas Company appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

WILLMUT GAS COMPANY

Karl H. Ficken  
President and CEO

**SOUTH  
MISSISSIPPI  
ELECTRIC**

POWER ASSOCIATION

*Engineering Department*

P.O. Box 15849  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5849

7037 US Highway 49  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Phone: 601.268.2083  
Fax: 601.261.2395

March 26, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

*Subject: BTOP Application, Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi*

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA), I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

SMEPA has been named as a selectee for a Smart Grid Infrastructure Grant of approximately \$30,563,967 to deploy smart meters and smart grid infrastructure across a range of its member cooperatives, providing increased communication and monitoring for the grid. In the near future SMEPA will be executing the grant award agreement. We have an interest in potentially utilizing the proposed fiber backbone to increase reliability of our planned smart grid infrastructure.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel. We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

South Mississippi Electric Power Association appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Ashley, P.E.  
Director of Design Engineering

rka

e-Copy: Terry Lee  
Roger Smith  
Kurt Brautigam

## ***Northeast Mississippi Public Power Association***

**14 Municipal and 14 Cooperatively owned Electric Distributors of the Tennessee Valley Authority generated power serving more than 310,000 homes and 69,000 commercial and industrial customers in 36 Northeast Mississippi Counties.**

March 26, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
HCHB, Room 4812  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

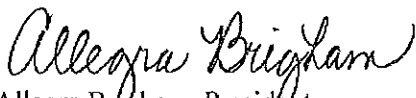
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express that the Northeast Mississippi Public Power Association, by a unanimous vote at our March 26, 2010 monthly meeting, supports the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi project application for BTOP funding (Round Two).

Funding of this project will enable more middle mile connectivity, public safety data connectivity, greater flexibility, expanded opportunities for grant research, connection speeds that are increasingly required by data intensive scientific research, economic development and future growth in an ever-increasing worldwide environment in which greater network speeds are essential to survival. The Northeast Mississippi Public Power Association and all of the citizens in not only North Mississippi, but throughout our state, would be grateful to benefit from this opportunity.

Your support is vital to insuring Mississippi and our region maximize our chances of taking advantage of this unique funding opportunity in the history of our country. Thank you for your time and your willingness to consider this project.

Sincerely,



Allegra Brigham, President

Northeast Mississippi Public Power Association



March 10, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration/NTIA  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of DigitalBridge Communications, I am writing to express our full support of the Round Two Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application submitted by the Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi.

We understand our nation's pressing need to create jobs and facilitate growth, close the broadband gap, and spread high-speed Internet access to schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety personnel.

We believe the application submitted by the Office of the Governor addresses these concerns and will move Mississippi forward in accomplishing these goals. The application will also improve and advance the lives of Mississippians by providing enhanced public safety and emergency medical care that will save lives and money. Additionally, the enhanced network will allow consumers in unserved and underserved areas, as well as the economically distressed areas of Mississippi, to receive desperately needed access to broadband. The Office of the Governor's application, if funded, will have a significant impact on the State of Mississippi.

DigitalBridge appreciates the NTIA's consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William F. Wallace".

William F. Wallace  
Executive Vice President