



College
of
Menominee
Nation

March 8, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP application for sustainable broadband adoption. This will address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity on the Menominee Reservation.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because this project will advance public outreach training by focusing on technology use and technology resources. The impact would allow individuals to receive local training that would increase their employment opportunities, entrepreneurship capabilities, financial literacy, and personal development. Community education efforts will also provide specific outreach for children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

The College of Menominee Nation will be designing and implementing workshops, seminars, new courses and curriculum to meet the identified training needs of the communities CMN serves. We will be contributing to the management and operation of the project by participating in a local advisory committee and by financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of almost \$56,000.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Ronald Jurgens

Vice President of Planning & Operations

Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW - Extension

Ms. Karen Lee Vermillion
Community Development and Youth Resource Educator
University of Wisconsin Extension - Menominee County/Nation
Keshena WI 54135

March 8th, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I am writing to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Menominee County/Nation.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions.
- The proposed projects will deploy broadband infrastructure with a commitment to serve the College of Menominee Nation within Menominee County/Nation that has expressed a demand or indicated a need for access to broadband service.

The importance of this effort cannot be overstated and, as a collaborator, we are more than happy to support the effort by serving on the Advisory Board, integral to this community partnership. Additionally, we will also be supporting the partnership through periodic consultation with Dr. Andrew Lewis, Community Development Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Extension, Center for Community Economic Development.

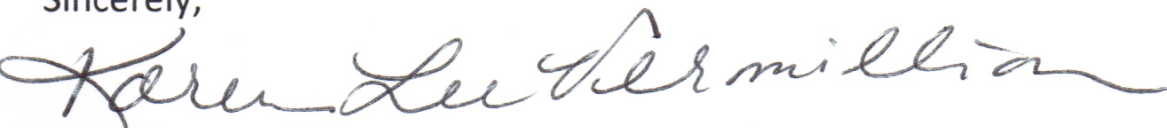
I would like to emphasize that, the need for access to broadband service is comparable to the rural electrification that occurred in the 20th century throughout the State of Wisconsin. Without funding for BCCB, current problems go unaddressed and, worse yet; Menominee will be left even further behind in meeting community interests and needs of 21st century.

As a result of these grants:

- Broadband service will be made available to areas of the community that currently have sporadic access at best.
- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- This effort will facilitate broadband service availability to an area of the state that currently has limited access at best, and new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions.
- This effort will create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- And, this effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort - the promotion of community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services to a community with significant needs - we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Lee Vermillion". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being the most prominent.

Karen Lee Vermillion

University of Wisconsin – Extension

Menominee County/Nation



MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135-0910

March 1, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

On behalf of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin I am writing to express our support of the University of Wisconsin –Extension's *Building Community Capacity Through Broadband (BCCB)* BTOP application for Sustainable Broadband Adoption. Their application will enhance success of our own Comprehensive Community Infrastructure project by promoting full utilization of benefits available through broadband access.

The Tribe will support the UW-Extension effort by assisting with educational outreach in our schools and community encouraging youth, senior citizens, and workplace professionals to participate in opportunities that would increase understanding and usage of broadband. Community facilities will be made available as needed to further support the BCCB program.

The UW-Extension efforts will support the sustainability of the Tribe's own Comprehensive Community Infrastructure project through increased understanding of broadband leading to increased end-user subscribership; by maximizing the number of users, costs transferred to end-users are kept at a minimum and access for lower income households is maximized. Local consumers will realize options for increased participation in education, business development through e-commerce, or broadband impacts to health care.

The benefits of University of Wisconsin's Building Community Capacity through Broadband – Sustainable Broadband Adoption application will have positive impacts for members of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin as we seek to improve local capacity for educational achievement, economic development, and overall community involvement. We urge your positive consideration and funding of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Boivin".

Laurie Boivin,
Menominee Tribal Chairwoman

C: file



CITY OF PLATTEVILLE
Senior Center
Connie Steinhoff, Director

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Platteville, WI.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because the proposed projects will deploy broadband infrastructure with a commitment to serve the growing senior citizen population that has expressed a demand or indicated a need for access or improved access to broadband service.

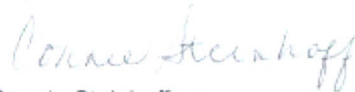
Our role as a key partner includes contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project. The Platteville Senior Center is the community focal point for identifying and responding to the needs of seniors. This project will create an internet access point for the public – primarily senior citizens – with the added advantage of onsite assistance and instruction.

As a result of these grants, our organization will not only attain improved broadband service, but also provide seniors with much needed technology adaptive aids. The issues that accompany normal aging (decline in vision, dexterity, and hearing) can be a real obstacle. These aids are necessary for many to realize the benefits of technology the rest of us take for granted.

Many of our patrons are low-income or live on fixed incomes. They simply do not have the financial capacity to purchase equipment and connect to existing service providers. Having access, assistance, and instruction at the Senior Center provides seniors with the means to participate in lifelong learning and maintain family connections in a familiar, comfortable environment. This keeps our seniors mentally active and research has shown staying mentally fit is a contributing factor in healthy aging.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin - Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,



Connie Steinhoff
Platteville Senior Center



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW - Extension

School District of Platteville

780 North Second Street
Platteville, WI 53818
Phone: (608) 342-4000
FAX: (608) 342-4412

February 22, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Sustainable Broadband Adoption*** (SBA) BTOP application along with their Building Community Capacity through Broadband application. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Platteville, Wisconsin.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because:

- Education is the cornerstone of our community and the proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure that substantially upgrades service to community anchor institutions including the public and private schools that serve 1,600 PK-12 students, of whom 8% are minority, 15% special needs and 35% economically disadvantaged.
- Increased connectivity would serve our community in a variety of ways from integrating city and emergency response facilities to providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs through construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth.
- It could give our entrepreneurs and businesses the opportunity to grow and compete in the global marketplace and provide an incentive for businesses to locate in Platteville that could take advantage of high speed community networking and local educational and business resources in addition to the relatively low costs of the area.
- If successful, Platteville could provide a model for other relatively rural communities and how the strengths of each community can be brought out to foster economic growth, education, and prosperity.

Our role as a key partner includes contributing:

- To the planning, development and execution of the proposed project by helping write the grant.
- Offering facilities for teaching classes to the community.
- Sending information on upcoming classes to parents and students through a variety of mediums including newsletters and the school district web site.
- Partnering with parent teacher groups to create and host classes.
- Giving the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) group an informational table at school events and fairs for the distribution of information.
- Offering classes such as: Internet safety, Web 2.0 skills, Social Networking, Ancestry/Genéalogy, Photo Editing, iPods/MP3 players, Cell Phones, and Digital Cameras.

Benefits and outcomes:

- As a result of these grants, we will have additional fiber capacity from additional terminations of our existing fiber and the new fiber that will be installed.
- The proposed network will provide redundant fiber paths to our buildings. This will help insure up time during fiber cuts or road construction.
- This effort will allow for cost savings through shared costs in maintaining the current fiber network.
- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information.
- This effort will improve broadband service for our membership and provide new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions and provide a means for offsite data backups.
- This effort will improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity.

- This effort will create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits of providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs through construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,



Dean Isaacson
District Administrator
School District of Platteville



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW-Extension



52 Means Drive, Suite 104
Platteville, WI 53818
Phone: 608.348.3050
Cell: [REDACTED]
Fax: 608.348.3426

plattevilleindustry@centurytel.net
www.plattevilleindustry.com

Building Community Capacity through Broadband-PCAN

Pledge of Investment

March 10, 2010

Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation (PAIDC) pledge **our support** for the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) and the University of Wisconsin - Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP application.

Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation (PAIDC) also pledges **our investment** in the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) by contributing to the cash match requirement.

We will make available funds in the amount of **\$250** a year for **2 years**, pending the award of the grant.

The mission of the Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation (PAIDC) is to create jobs as well as retain existing jobs and to improve the quality of life in Platteville through business development in the Business Park and the surrounding area. Business development keeps our community healthy. To prosper as a community we work towards creating and keeping good jobs in the area.

We are an organization that believes in teamwork and is experienced in working with others to achieve mutual goals. We are involved, forward thinking citizens. We maintain our tradition of citizenship and service through actions that demonstrate our care for the people of Platteville and the environment around us.

Our community is committed and invested in this project, and have every intention of continuing the principles of education, access and adoption long after the grant is done. We urge you to consider this application and invest in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

George Krueger
Executive Director

Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW - Extension



Building Community Capacity through Broadband-PCAN

Pledge of Investment

Date: March 9, 2010

We at Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. pledge **our support** for the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) and the University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP application.

Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. pledges **our investment** in the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) by contributing to the cash match requirement.

We will make available funds in the amount of **\$500** a year for **2 years**, pending the award of the grant.

The Platteville Business Incubator, Inc. (PBII) is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of promoting business start-ups in the Platteville area.

We believe this will benefit entrepreneurs who can gain a better understanding of the internet and the many ways broadband can enhance their business through e-marketing, online stores, etc. Many new businesses find it hard to find a large enough market for their product or service, obviously broadband service opens up the global markets for them.

Our community is committed and invested in this project, and have every intention of continuing the principles of education, access and adoption long after the grant is done. We urge you to consider this application and invest in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward L. White".

Edward L. White
Executive Director,
Platteville Business Incubator, Inc.

P.O. Box 415, 52 Means Dr., Platteville, WI 53818 • Phone: 608.348.2758 • Fax: 608.348.3426
Email: info@pbii.org • www.plattevilleincubator.com • Toll Free: 1.866.671.2305

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Dorn".
Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW-Extension

Building Community Capacity through Broadband-PCAN

Pledge of Investment

9 March 2010

We, the Platteville Library Foundation, pledge **our support** for the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) and the University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP application.

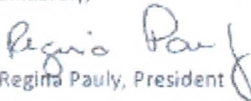
We, the Platteville Library Foundation, pledge **our investment** in the Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN) by contributing to the cash match requirement.


We will make available funds in the amount of \$2,500a year for 2 years (\$5,000 total), pending the award of the grant.

Our organization supports the Platteville Public Library. We believe this project will benefit the library and residents of Platteville by giving them greater access to the Information Highway and sites available on the Internet. The Platteville Public Library has listed specific goals in their objectives, such as: laptop checkout, teaching computer and information literacy courses, offering video editing and supporting English as a Second or other Language classes to elementary school children.

Our community is committed and invested in this project, and have every intention of continuing the principles of education, access and adoption long after the grant is done. We urge you to consider this application and invest in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Regina Pauly, President
Platteville Library Foundation


Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW-Extension

03/03/2010 WED 16:48 FAX 608 348 9923 PLATTEVILLE PUB. LIBRARY

0002/003



PLATTEVILLE PUBLIC
LIBRARY
65 South Elm St.
Platteville, WI 53818
(608) 348-7441

March 3, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling,
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to the University of Wisconsin - Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB)** BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through the **Platteville Community Area Network (PCAN)** project that will provide us with the impetus and support that we need badly to build community capacity here.

In fall 2008, the Library Board of Trustees of the Platteville Public Library convened a Community Planning Committee comprised of a broad cross section of community residents to help develop a strategic plan for the library. Wi-Fi, broadband, and public access to technology were identified as community needs during the visioning part of this process.

Currently we have 20 public access computers plus we are a Wi-Fi hot spot. Last year 29,040 adults, teens and children logged into our public computers to prepare their income taxes, develop emergent literacy skills with educational software, apply for jobs, create resumes, do research and typing for school papers, and communicate with loved ones around the world via email. Senior citizens come in for one-on-one informal instruction so that they could participate in the 21st century world of computers.

We are partnering with PCAN for several reasons:

- According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for Platteville is \$35,742. Our patrons use our computers because they cannot afford their own and even if they could--their options for high speed internet access are very limited now.
- Our strategic plan goals for serving our community are: emergent literacy, to stimulate imagination with popular materials in all formats including digital

03/03/2010 WED 16:49 FAX 608 348 9923 PLATTEVILLE PUB. LIBRARY

003/003

and lifelong learning. The availability of a fiber infrastructure for connectivity is an inherent need to achieve these goals.

- We believe that sustainable broadband in our community is critical to the economic growth of Southwestern Wisconsin and participation in the new global economy.

Our role as a key partner includes:

- We will be teaching computer and information literacy courses, supporting the home school community with laptops, checking laptops out to rural residents for use in their homes, offering video editing classes for teens, and supporting English as a Second Language classes for elementary school children.
- Our Platteville Library Foundation will be financially contributing to the cost share in the total amount of \$5,000.

Our library is in desperate need of additional space and we are planning for a new building within the next several years. However, our options for relocating the library to gain much needed programming, collection, and parking space are SEVERELY limited because of the limited amount of fiber in our City.

When this grant is funded, we will be able to build a large enough building to expand:

- our community computer center access;
- information and computer literacy training;
- programs for emergent literacy;
- English as a Second Language and Spanish as a Second Language training

The Platteville Public Library Board of Trustees and staff strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin - Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,



Rose Frost, Director
Platteville Public Library



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW-Extension



March 11, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

UW-Platteville's Office of Continuing Education will work with the Platteville Community Area Network (P-CAN) group to make technology training classes available to community members and target constituent groups and vulnerable populations in the community and the region. Continuing Education offers a variety of computer and internet courses we have already developed, to help increase the capacity of Platteville and Southwest Wisconsin residents to use Internet connectivity. We will make selected courses available at a discounted fee - to be subsidized by grant funds - to make them more affordable to low-income populations and to increase access to our instructors and campus lab resources. We would still want participants to pay a small fee, to show their commitment to learning - we have found that offering classes for free sometimes results in people signing up but then not following up because there is no commitment to attend.

As a partner organization, Continuing Education will participate in conducting needs assessments and developing new courses to meet emerging educational needs in the area of computer and internet technology training. The faculty, staff and students who teach and assist with our classes have experience in course development and working with non-traditional students to address their specific learning needs and learning styles - and help ensure the educational experiences are effective.

Continuing Education will also support courses developed by the P-CAN group, by promoting them to in our Community Education marketing brochure, which is sent to over 4,800 people in Southwest Wisconsin (past students and those who are interested in our classes) four times per year. There will be no charge to the P-CAN group for this service, which has a value of \$250 per publication or \$750 for the calendar year. This will comprise our in-kind sponsorship of the BCCB project in the Platteville and Grant County area.

For all courses that are offered through Continuing Education, people can access our online registration system 24/7. Continuing Education's online registration system has introduced many community members to the world of e-commerce. It has provided a stepping-stone to other computer- and internet-based experiences, such as enrolling in Continuing Education's online and web-based classes. This is a resource that is also available for courses that are developed by the P-CAN group to address unique learning needs outside of Continuing Education's mission and purpose.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support for this project. You can reach me at 608-342-1302 or maciejhm@uwplatt.edu.

Sincerely,

Marian Maciej-Hiner

Marian Maciej-Hiner, Director
UW-Platteville Office of Continuing Education

Mark K. Dorn

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW-Extension

Saint Mary School

345 North Court St.

Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers AND Mr. Strickling,

As a representative of St. Mary School, I write to you today to state our support of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Platteville, Wisconsin.

St. Mary School is partnering on this important endeavor because:

- Education is the cornerstone of the community and society. Through our educational institutions we serve all children regardless of economic status, race, creed, or special needs. St. Mary School serves 70 families from the Platteville community. About 65% of our families live within the city of Platteville. We serve families of all economic backgrounds. This year, St. Mary School has made real efforts to reduce the amount of paper used for communication. Our website is used extensively by our staff and families and our weekly newsletter is sent via email. Any upgrade in technology would help increase our staff and parent access to these forms of communication. We are always looking for projects to do within the community. With increased technology at the Senior Center, we would love to send some of our eighth graders who are quite tech savvy to work with the Senior Center people.

- Increased connectivity would serve our community in a variety of ways from integrating city and emergency response facilities to providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs thru construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth.
- Increased connectivity could give our entrepreneurs and businesses the opportunity to grow and compete in the global marketplace and provide an incentive for businesses to locate in Platteville that could take advantage of high speed community networking and local educational and business resources in addition to the relatively low costs of the area.
- If successful, Platteville could provide a model for other relatively rural communities and how the strengths of each community can be brought out to foster economic growth, education, and prosperity.

St. Mary School's role as a collaborator includes:

- Offering facilities for teaching classes to community.
- Sending information on upcoming classes to parents and students through a variety of mediums, including newsletters and the district website.
- Partnering with Parent-Teacher groups to create and host classes.
- Giving the PCAN group an informational table at school events and fairs for the distribution of information.

BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:

- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

MAR-05-2010 FRI 03:37 PM ST MARYS SCHOOL

608 348 9883

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- This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information.
- This effort will improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity.
- This effort will create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.

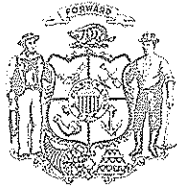
Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits of providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs thru construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth that can be derived from this effort, St. Mary School strongly supports the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,



Jean Lange, Principal

St. Mary School



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
DALE W. SCHULTZ

March 4, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Subject: University of Wisconsin Extension BTOP application for five pilot community projects

Dear Mr. Strickling:

As a Wisconsin State Senator, I strongly support the University of Wisconsin-Extension's BTOP grant applications for five pilot communities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation, Platteville, Superior, and Wausau. The project focus is to build community capacity through infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption.

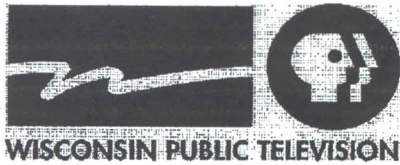
The Platteville project is a collaboration of the University of Wisconsin Platteville, local libraries, schools and municipalities, community anchor institutions and business. An estimated 25 percent of the rural southwest Wisconsin region around Platteville is without quality, affordable broadband availability or access. The unserved segment of the population is being left behind as their government, health care providers, work-world, schools, and community increasingly shift operations to the web. Addressing this unmet need has been identified as a top priority by leaders at all levels across the region.

Please award this UW-Extension grant request on behalf of five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

With kindest regards,

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

Senator Dale W. Schultz
Wisconsin State Senate
Senate District 17



March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

Please accept this letter of commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television, a service of the University of Wisconsin Extension will contribute time and resources to these projects.

The proliferation of broadband access and the robust use of broadband is essential in a state like Wisconsin that has vast rural areas that are now unserved or underserved by broadcast media and by broadband connectivity. Extending broadband access to rural communities will allow them entry to the international network of information, education and commerce that will be the basis for sustainable economic development in Wisconsin. The proliferation of broadband and its widespread use will provide Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television access to new audiences who may have difficulty receiving our over the air signal. Twenty percent of our state does not subscribe to cable or satellite service leaving them subject to the limitations of our over the air signals. Broadband provides the prospect for a significant new path to their doors. Moreover, broadband service will expand access to web based content and to archived copies of our programming, that will give it broader reach and impact.

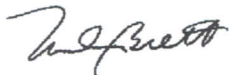
As Wisconsin's public service media we are committed to achieving "universal access" to our content and to expanding our service to all of Wisconsin. These projects address that circumstance for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly bring capacity to those communities and will extend, expand and enhance Wisconsin Public Broadcasting's reach and our service to Wisconsin. In Wisconsin 20% of television viewers do not subscribe to cable or satellite and a smaller, but still substantial portion of our state cannot receive Wisconsin Public Radio over the air signals.

I have committed my own time and effort to this project along with the time of senior staff and others within UW Extension-Broadcasting and Media Innovations. I will continue to support the work throughout the project as a member of the project Oversight Board. Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television will also be contributing in excess of \$20,000 of in-kind resources.

We feel confident that UWEX, with its partners – WISNET (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state's educational telecommunications agency), comprises the right team to create sustainable resources that will assist other communities in the future.

We are excited about the prospect of expanded broadband proliferation in Wisconsin because of the extensive educational, cultural and civic building resources we will be able to provide over the "network". As technology offers new platforms, Wisconsin Public Radio and Television are determined to mine these opportunities for expanded reach and new services not possible through over the air broadcast. The promise of public service media will be best fulfilled when all Wisconsinites can benefit from all of our services. This project is a major step in that direction and I urge your support.

Sincerely,



Malcolm Brett
Director, Broadcasting and Media Innovations
University of Wisconsin Extension



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW-Extension



March 10, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling and NTIA Reviewers,

On behalf of the WiscNet Board of Directors and our 450 community anchor institution members, this is to state our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband ("BCCB") application for BTOP-funded sustainable broadband adoption. Since the application's inception, we have worked closely with our key statewide partners to foster this innovative multi-community collaboration; we will continue to do so.

WiscNet – Wisconsin's Research, Education, and Public Service Network - is a 20-year-old statewide community with members drawn from Wisconsin's higher education and research communities, community colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, healthcare institutions, and public sector agencies. Legally structured as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit association, we are governed by an elected 11-member board of directors. We are – and we serve – Wisconsin's community anchor institutions.

In these 20 years of serving anchor institutions, we have learned that teaching our members how to gain and sustain broadband's benefits is as important as any technology advance. We also have learned that networks create local communities of like-minded institutions: we now know how to foster conversations and relationships that grow these "community area networks" ("CANs") into forces for desired community change and broadband adoption. For the last 5 years, we've focused our "community development" work among our member institutions on the benefits of joining together to form and govern CANs.

We and our statewide BTOP partners are limited on how much education and promotion of CANs we can provide. That is why this grant is so critical. We propose to extend the CAN model for sustainable broadband adoption beyond what we are capable of today by using UW-Extension's presence in every Wisconsin county to scale statewide, to reach more community anchor institutions and to expand the demand for sustainable broadband into the private sector. Anchor institutions are only as strong as their local economies and we intend our efforts to spur local economic development.

WiscNet is committed to provide ongoing resources to carry out the proposed project:

- ♦ Our Executive Director will participate in the oversight committee's activities to ensure responsible execution of the grant requirements and maintain our partnership's consistency in dealing with community anchor institutions.



- ◆ Our 2 Educational Technology Liaison staff will allocate up to 25% of their time to teach and consult in our pilot communities on how to develop sustainable broadband adoption strategies that leverage the institutional resources present in their Community Area Networks and our statewide key partners.
- ◆ We will provide a cash match of \$50,000 for CAN development and sustainable broadband adoption activities in our pilot communities.
- ◆ We will organize and host 8 to 10 regional meetings per project-year to share statewide our ongoing assessment of the development of CANs and their sustainable broadband adoption activities in our pilot communities.

The new CAN-based sustainable broadband adoption initiatives that we can develop with these grant dollars will advance the broadband network needs of the public and private sectors, provide needed economic stimulus and demonstrate a model for comprehensive community broadband deployment that many communities across the United States can replicate. We look forward to the challenge.

Sincerely,

Ross Wilson
Chairman, WiscNet Board of Directors

David J. Lois
Executive Director, WiscNet

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW- Extension



Cooperative Extension
Dean and Director

University of Wisconsin-Extension

601 Extension Building
432 North Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706-1498
608-263-2775
608-265-4545 (fax)
800-947-6644 (TTY)

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

As Dean and Director of UW-Extension Cooperative Extension, I have been involved in the project oversight committee and have been working with Mr. Andy Lewis, a Professor from UW-Extension Cooperative Extension on the planning and proposal development. I have worked with Mr. Lewis in developing a network of our county-based faculty in the development of local coordinating and planning working groups. If funded, I will continue to work with Mr. Lewis in the implementation of the project's activities, the support of its goals, the collaboration with our county-based faculty, and service on the project oversight committee.

I will not be directly involved in project management, although I will be supporting Mr. Lewis and our colleagues at the state and community levels. I do intend to work with our Cooperative Extension colleagues to contribute \$50,000 over two years as a non-federal cash cost share.

The project's value to the communities depends on effective local planning and implementation. Our colleagues in the counties where these communities are located will play an integral role in the overall coordination of the project and ensuring that the connect between broadband access and economic development is maintained. They will also play a critical role in the facilitation and delivery of educational programs intended to increase the use and understanding of broadband.

The value to the UW-Extension Cooperative Extension stems from the value that our state and county colleagues add to the community. Our cooperative extension county offices are partially funded by county tax revenues, and our presence is not mandated. Therefore, our sustained presence in the county depends on our ability to demonstrate and document value-added educational programming and to document the outcomes and impacts. As former Dean Ayse Somersan wrote in her book titled, "Distinguished Service", Cooperative Extension has a long track record of "...organizational development and institution building - University faculty helping people of similar interests and avocations form associations and organizations to learn from each other,

further a cause, shape public policy and provide an organized way for University staff to deliver education." Based on these numerous past experiences, Extension is well positioned to assist in building capacity within communities to address broadband expansion in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner through the establishment of Community Area Networks (CAN's).

This project will be a very important component in our ability to demonstrate and communicate our value to our county partner. Most importantly, increasing broadband access and improving the underlying economic opportunities will be of large benefit to the people and businesses in the participating communities – the ultimate goal of our work as an educational institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard M. Klemme".

Richard Klemme
Dean and Director
Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

As the lead partner for the *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption, we are excited by the opportunity these grant funds will bring to the many communities we serve and to advance the state. Without this effort, many communities will be left behind. They will not have access to the world of knowledge and economic vitality that comes with broadband access. Additionally, this effort allows the University of Wisconsin System to engage with communities so they will have the capacity to leverage and access the many current and future opportunities broadband access brings to them. This effort is not a “nice to have” initiative...it is vital to the future of Wisconsin. We have committed considerable resources to this effort already and will continue to do that. In addition to the commitment of key personnel throughout the organization, we are committing \$100,000 in cash.

The work has begun and the target communities have pulled together and identified what they need. The needs vary from expanding tele-medicine, to e-commerce, to public safety, to quality of life and community long-term sustainability. The grassroots approach to this effort will make it sustainable long-term, as we are building community understanding of the resources they can access and how they might leverage those assets now and into the future.

We are confident that this community-driven model, along with a diverse team including, University of Wisconsin-Extension, with its partners – WISCNET (Wisconsin’s research and education network), University of Wisconsin Colleges, University of Wisconsin System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state’s telecommunications agency), comprises the right team to create sustainable resources that will assist other communities in the future.

We know these organizations well and feel assured that through their collaboration, broadband use will indeed increase as a result. Currently, the vast majority of rural Wisconsin residents are unaware of the benefits of broadband. They simply do not know or can’t understand how broadband access could improve their lives. Utilizing a community approach, this effort will include model development and sharing across the state.

This project is focused on bringing institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community. Clearly, efforts to connect community anchor institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services, in government, educational institutions, healthcare and public safety. Building Community Capacity is what we do. This grant will allow us to reach and engage with communities at a deep level. It will also allow us to capture data as we articulate success strategies used by the target communities, and that will be utilized for replication across the state. We are committed to this effort and to bringing the state the needed infrastructure which is in the form of broadband fiber and the knowledge of how to use it.

Building Community Capacity through Broadband will link infrastructure with education and will position many underserved communities to be competitive long into the future. Your support of this grant request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



David Wilson, Chancellor
University of Wisconsin Colleges and
University of Wisconsin-Extension



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW-Extension



Office of the President

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March 10, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

As President of the University of Wisconsin System, I am pleased to share with you this letter pledging my full commitment to the University of Wisconsin-Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB)*** applications for grant funding under the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The University of Wisconsin System, with an annual budget of over \$4.7 billion, serves over 178,000 students through its 26 campuses located across the state, and more than one million Wisconsin residents through its statewide Extension organization.

The University of Wisconsin System has embarked upon a long-term strategic plan for Wisconsin entitled: *The Growth Agenda for Wisconsin*. That initiative, which has garnered gubernatorial, bi-partisan legislative, community, and business support, has three strategic goals:

Grow the number of degree holders in Wisconsin
Grow the number of Wisconsin jobs
Grow stronger Wisconsin communities

Achieving these goals requires harnessing innovation and knowhow, focusing on strategic opportunities, building broad partnerships, and the wise allocation of limited resources. The grant applications submitted by UW-Extension support, in a significant manner, all three *Growth Agenda* strategic goals and will serve as a model for future investments and partnerships.

The sustainable implementation strategies and partnerships that are the core of the UW-Extension's **Sustainable Broadband Adoption Grant** proposal are key ingredients for achieving initial implementation success, and more importantly, an enduring success. While

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
March 10, 2010
Page Two

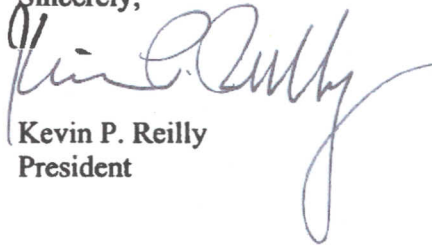
this grant targets five specific communities, it must be thought of as more like a demonstration project whose results will allow for best practices to be identified, and then replicated in numerous communities throughout Wisconsin. UW-Extension is uniquely qualified to fulfill this objective given its community-based statewide networks, educational and economic development expertise, and experience in developing and delivering similar types of sustainable programming.

Wisconsin communities have been hit hard by the recent global economic disaster. Rural communities and individuals in manufacturing and lower skilled jobs continue to suffer from chronic unemployment. It is clear that business, healthcare, education, and social networks are inextricably linked to the internet and high-speed communication channels. Today, and even more so in future, the quality of life that Wisconsin citizens will enjoy is significantly tied to the quality of the communications infrastructure that they have available to them.

However, infrastructure alone, while a prerequisite, will only take them, and the state, so far. To truly leverage current and future infrastructure investments and strengthen the economic, social, and cultural vitality of Wisconsin, communities need a broad and deep understanding of the capabilities of that infrastructure and the innovative spirit to develop new tools, products, and capacity. That is the nature of the UW-Extension proposal, and its contribution to these five communities and beyond.

I am pleased to be partnering with so many public and private sector entities and to contribute \$100,000 in cash match and significant staff resources to this very worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Reilly
President



Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW-Extension



Educational
Communications
Board

Wisconsin Public Broadcasting
and Media Serving You

Education Services
Wisconsin Public Radio
Wisconsin Public Television

Gene Purcell, Executive Director

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling and NTIA Grant Reviewers,

I'm writing today to let you know of the Educational Communications Board (ECB) commitment to the University of Wisconsin Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption.

In addition to ECB's support of BCCB, the agency has also committed to a long-term lease with the Chippewa Valley Internet Working Consortium through ECB's EBS spectrum licenses with Eau Claire's Geographic Service Area (GSA). Furthermore, ECB has also committed to providing the time of its Executive Director to serve on the BCCB Oversight Board.

As Wisconsin's telecommunications agency, ECB's staff is charged with producing and distributing educational and public service media through a variety of platforms including Internet delivery.

Because of ECB's close relationships with Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction and K-12 school districts throughout the state, ECB's staff is keenly aware of the challenges that many Wisconsin educators and students face in accessing quality educational material over the Internet. The challenge of accessing affordable, high-speed Internet is found in many parts of the state—especially in rural areas.

ECB staff has been working closely with the University of Wisconsin-Extension, WiscNet (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System and UW Madison in developing applications to this point, and I want to assure you of ECB's continued investment of staff time and expertise in the project.

The Educational Communications Board exists to serve the citizens of the state of Wisconsin with high quality educational and public service media and it is our belief that this project will be a giant step forward in our ability to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Gene Purcell
Executive Director

Mark K. Dorn
Controller

UW - Extension



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

I am submitting this letter to express strong support for the University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin, for farms and rural citizens, and in particular for the five communities that are collaborating on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

These applications, upon implementation, will be highly effective in helping communities collectively address their broadband needs through Community Area Networks – local consortia that look beyond the needs of individual institutions to focus on how best to serve the larger community. UWEX, with its partners – WISNET (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state's telecommunications agency), have the right team that can support these communities now and in the future.

I strongly believe these organizations have unique capacities to increase broadband use in rural areas. They understand how broadband access can improve citizens' lives. Local anchor institutions within many communities are focused solely on their own needs for greater connectivity, often unaware of others doing the same thing. This project will bring institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community. Clearly, efforts to connect community anchor institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services, in government, educational institutions, healthcare and public safety.

This funding will bring about significant cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand. The collaborative nature of this effort will promote efficiency through cost and resource sharing, avoiding redundant infrastructure, as well as providing more accessible services to those who have not benefited from broadband to date. The effort will also enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. This effort will improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity.

Because of the innovative and new broadband access for farmers and rural citizens that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

Rod Nilsestuen
Secretary

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

February 22, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,
I am pleased to support the University of Wisconsin – Extension’s ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. These projects will address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

I support these applications because

- The University of Wisconsin – Extension’s proposed approach is consistent with other Community Area Networks approaches around the country that have proven to be highly effective in helping communities collectively address their broadband needs through– local consortia.
- The University of Wisconsin – Extension, with its partners – WiscNet (Wisconsin’s research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state’s telecommunications agency), comprises the right team to create sustainable resources that will assist other communities in the future.
- I have worked with these organizations for more than 15 years and know first hand that approach described will help rural Wisconsin residents become more aware of and make greater use of broadband to promote education and stimulate the economy.
- This project is focused on bringing institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community. Clearly, efforts to connect community anchor institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services, in government, educational institutions, healthcare and public safety.

Without this type of innovative funding, the challenges in rural Wisconsin will go unaddressed.

- This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information.
- This effort will improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity
- This effort will improve broadband service for our membership, or broadband service availability to areas of the state that currently have limited access at best, new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions
- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- This effort will create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for other communities throughout Wisconsin.

Strengthening the economy, building stronger community-based healthcare solutions, improving education opportunities and positioning our communities to serve our citizens in new ways will help ensure that local economies become strong and resilient. Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald D. Kraemer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" and last name "Kraemer" clearly legible, and "D." as a small initial between them.

Ron Kraemer
Vice Provost for Information Technology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I would like to encourage you to support the University of Wisconsin – Extension’s ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) applications for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. These applications address critical economic and workforce needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. The grant awards would greatly assist in building community broadband capacity to serve their regions.

I support these applications because high-level broadband capacity is increasingly a necessary component of workforce and economic development, from both a training and a commerce perspective. As you know, workforce development (talent) will be the key in competing successfully in the global economic environment. More and more workers and businesses must act to maximize productivity, and analytical and interactive capabilities are becoming paramount. Connecting institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services in and between the private and public sectors.

Furthermore:

- Many rural Wisconsin residents are uncertain of how broadband access could improve their personal and business opportunities.
- Local anchor institutions are in need of expanding their broadband capacity for commerce and local community support and integration.
- This project is focused on bringing institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community.
- I support the University of Wisconsin - Extension’s proposed approach as UWEX is highly effective in helping communities collectively address their broadband needs through Community Area Networks – local consortia that focus on how best to serve the community.
- UWEX, with its partners – WISCNET (Wisconsin’s research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state’s telecommunications agency), comprises the best team to create sustainable resources.

Not unlike the federal program to electrify rural America, it is now time to bring enhanced broadband capacity there as well. Broadband is the modern equivalent of electricity, increasing and enhancing information flows across distance. The size of the endeavor necessitates the size of the resource. States and local communities didn't have the resources for rural electrification then, and they don't have the resources for rural broadband now. Only federal funding constitutes enough resource to accomplish installation of this vast and modern network.

Such an investment will bring much of the state and country into the modern age of telecommunications. The capability will also allow rural areas to access services that are becoming increasingly expensive for low-density areas. Such services as education, health care, shopping, and entertainment are becoming available more cheaply via broadband out of necessity (remote education and health care) and access (elderly access to shopping and social activities).

This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing their network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

Due to the increased need for talent and supply of services, particularly in rural areas, and the availability of modern technology to address these needs, the expansion and enhancement of broadband capacity in rural areas is necessary, but not yet sufficient. The technology exists to remedy this problem. Delay in applying requisite resources will only further divide rural and urban well-being. The economic prosperity and geographical poverty separations between rural and urban can be narrowed with the help of better technology and increased access to education and commerce. Broadband expansion and enhancement in rural areas is a giant step into narrowing the divide.

I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

D.K. Winters

Dennis K. Winters
Chief, Office of Economic Advisors
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Madison, WI

February 19th, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I am writing to you today to express my support for the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband Initiative (BCCB). What is proposed addresses needs for five communities in the state to improve their broadband capacity, and perhaps more importantly, to serve as a model for deployment of the same improvements to other underserved regions of the State of Wisconsin.

As a community volunteer, I see great value in the features of the UW Extension's Initiative that intend to:

1. Provide broadband service, or substantially improve broadband service to regions of the state that not adequately served now. Broadband service is a necessity to compete in the 21st century economy, and these regions will be at a significant disadvantage without it.
2. Drive collaboration, efficiency, resource sharing and cost control among the public and private sector entities that are prepared to participate. As you can see from the grant submission, community stakeholders have already organized and made investments with this goal in mind.
3. Work collaboratively with the private sector, avoiding duplication of existing services, and working together to leverage the investments that the private sector is willing to make for the benefit of the communities.
4. Attain a goal of sustainability, meaning that the projects do not drive ongoing demands for public funds and become financially self-sustaining with this investment.

I expect the UW Extension's plan to accomplish these objectives while at the same time building a durable, collaborative relationship among the public and private sector participants in each of the project communities. With these benefits in mind, I ask that you provide the funding requested by the University of Wisconsin- Extension for the BCCB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Summers", written in a cursive style.

Keith Summers
President, Board of Visitors
UW Colleges/ UW Extension

March 8, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension’s ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building capacity to serve their regions.

The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin was created to find solutions for the efficient delivery and funding of local government services consistent with the needs of our citizens. We recently completed a study identifying barriers and opportunities to making local government service delivery more efficient and cost effective. One of the major findings of the study was that the greatest opportunity for efficiencies in service delivery could be found through consolidation of services across jurisdictions within a region.

Such consolidation of services, however, depends upon having an infrastructure that facilitates effective communication, collaborative information management across jurisdictions and transmission of large amounts of data in real time to regional partners who must act on that data. While many of Wisconsin’s metropolitan areas have this infrastructure, most of our rural areas do not – and Wisconsin is predominantly a rural state. Of the 592 incorporated municipalities within the state, only 85 have populations greater than 10,000 and a mere 13 have populations greater than 50,000.

The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin supports these applications because they are focused on bringing local governments together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community. Clearly, efforts to connect local governments in each of these regions will lead to more effective services and improved public safety.

This project should also help to lower the cost of providing services within the community by demonstrating and promoting the effective use of broadband for both e-government and public safety purposes. For example, Wisconsin Public Television will be creating video case studies on a variety of best-practices including e-government. The end product, professionally produced video's telling compelling stories that could be shared with other units of local government across the state.

Without this investment in broadband infrastructure it will be very difficult to address issues of service consolidation across jurisdictions, reducing the cost of delivering local government services within jurisdictions or even maintaining existing service quality levels. The fiscal pressure on local government today means that the funds required to build this infrastructure will not come from this sector for quite some time.

We feel the benefits to local property taxpayers and citizens can be significant with the availability of broadband service to facilitate initiatives to deliver local government services more efficiently and with improved quality. The effort represented by these grant applications will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits to taxpayers and citizens that can be derived from local government involvement in this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Becker" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Becker
Executive Director



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MADISON, WI 53703
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PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189
www.wicounties.org

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

We support these applications because we feel confident that UWEX, with its partners – WISCNET (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state's telecommunications agency), comprises the right team to create sustainable resources that will assist other communities in the future.

We know these organizations well and feel assured that through their collaboration, broadband use will indeed increase as a result. Currently, the vast majority of rural Wisconsin residents are unaware of the benefits of broadband. They simply do not know or can't understand how broadband access could improve their lives. Local anchor institutions within many communities are focused solely on their own needs for greater connectivity, often unaware of others doing the same thing.

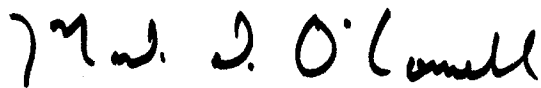
This effort will improve broadband service for our membership, or broadband service availability to areas of the state that currently have limited access at best, new capabilities to communicate

Page Two
WCA Letter of Support
March 9, 2010

and transport data among anchor institutions. It will also improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark D. O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark D. O'Connell
Executive Director



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO ...the voice for working families.

David Newby, President • Sara J. Rogers, Exec. Vice President • Phillip L. Neuenfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,
We write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

- We believe University of Wisconsin – Extension's proposed approach will be highly effective in helping communities collectively address their broadband needs through Community Area Networks – local consortia that look beyond the needs of individual institutions to focus on how best to serve the larger community.
- We feel confident that UWEX, with its partners – WISNET (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System, UW-Madison, and the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (our state's telecommunications agency), comprises an excellent team to create sustainable resources that will assist other communities in the future.
- This project is focused on bringing institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband – how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of each community. Clearly, efforts to connect community anchor institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services, in government, educational institutions, healthcare and public safety.
- This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing their network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

You may receive other credible proposals for this grant, but UW Extension is the only organization that has asked for our support.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits (list what they are here again) that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** grant applications.

Sincerely,

David Newby, President

6333 West Blue Mound Road • Milwaukee, WI, 53213
Phone: 414-771-0700 • Fax: 414-771-1715
Web Site: www.wisafclcio.org • E-Mail: Solidarity@wisafclcio.org



WMC

WISCONSIN'S BUSINESS VOICE

WISCONSIN'S BUSINESS VOICE SINCE 1911

March 8, 2010

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

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today on behalf of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) and our 3,500 members statewide in support of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

The focus of our business association is to ensure Wisconsin is the most competitive state in the nation, while promoting a healthy business climate. Our members include large and small manufacturers, service companies, local chambers of commerce and specialized trade associations. This project's efforts to connect community anchor institutions in each of the five designated communities will lead to more effective services in government, education, healthcare and public safety. From our perspective, it will enhance our abilities to improve established businesses and foster new entrepreneurial endeavors while enriching the quality of life for our citizens.

This grant will improve broadband service for our membership, strengthen broadband service availability to areas of the state that currently have limited access at best, and offer new capabilities to communicate and transport data thus introducing e-commerce as a business option. We look forward to the realization of new opportunities to promote community collaboration and the creation of new consumer demand this grant funding will ensure.

Because of the innovation it will conceive, the highly positive community benefits it will bring and the much needed stimulus in commerce it will spur, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce strongly supports this project and urges you to embrace and fully fund these University of Wisconsin-Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** grant applications.

Sincerely,

James S. Haney
President / CEO



Wisconsin Economic Development Association Inc.

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.W. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling,

As President of the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for communities across Wisconsin and in particular the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each region with maximizing the use of broadband for economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life in those regions. Our economic development professionals across the state clearly recognize broadband as a critical piece of infrastructure needed to advance the economy of Wisconsin.

We support these applications because we believe UWEX's proposed approach will be highly effective in helping communities collectively address their broadband needs through Community Area Networks – local consortiums that look beyond individual institution's needs to focus on how best to serve the larger community. We think UWEX, with their partners – WISCNET, UW-Colleges, UW-System, UW-Madison and ECB, are the right team to create sustainable resources to assist other communities in the future.

We know these organizations well and feel confident that through their collaboration, broadband use will indeed increase as a result. Currently, the vast majority of rural Wisconsin residents are unaware of the benefits of broadband. They simply don't know, or can't see how broadband can improve their lives. Local anchor institutions within many communities are focused solely on their need for greater connectivity, often unaware of others doing the same thing.

This effort is focused on bringing institutions together to collectively make strategic decisions regarding broadband, how to get it, and how best to use it for the benefit of community. Clearly, efforts to connect anchor institutions in each of these communities will lead to more effective services, in government, educational institutions, healthcare and public safety. Health care and educational research, in particular, are important economic engines within our state. Not only do these public institutions need improved access, the students and clients they serve need improved broadband access and training on how to maximize the associated economic benefits.

PEOPLE • JOBS • PROFITS

4600 American Parkway, Ste. 208

Madison, WI 53718

608-255-5666

This project will also:

- Allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term sustainability and cost efficiencies.
- Promote community collaboration and efficacy through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- Enhance lifesaving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

Benefits to our economic development professionals will include improved broadband service for our membership, and the businesses within our region. Many areas of the state that currently have sporadic access at best, will gain new capabilities to communicate and transport data to anchor institutions.

Given the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from his effort, we strongly support and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Drinan', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Patrick Drinan, President
Wisconsin Economic Development Association

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

March 10, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my support of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) application for funding under the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program - Sustainable Broadband Adoption.

The University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) is submitting two linked applications for stimulus funds to promote broadband construction and adoption. According to the application, the BCCB project moves beyond the goal of fiber construction to building the capacity essential to leverage this access for community development. The project will link communications technology to five essentially rural pilot regions: Wausau, the Menomonee Nation, the Chippewa Valley, Platteville and Superior. Each community faces significant economic development, municipal infrastructure, educational or health delivery challenges. The pilot regions have a combined population of more than 420,000 people in over 169,000 households, including significant Hmong, Native American and Hispanic populations. Project components and activities are designed to meet the unique needs and characteristics of each region.

According to the proposal, this project is designed to engage communities to build their own local capacity for education, awareness, and training. It will build digital literacy by transforming institutions, reaching underserved areas and vulnerable populations, and assuring broadband support within each community. Through its awareness campaign and community training, this project will raise consciousness about broadband and spur the desire to personally invest in broadband adoption.

With SBA funding, BCCB can promote broadband demand and the adoption of broadband technology in five regions of the state where it has been traditionally underutilized. I urge you to give the BCCB application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

RDF/jmb

HERB KOHL
WISCONSIN

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

March 8, 2010

Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am pleased to lend strong support to the University of Wisconsin Extension proposal to receive Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce to support the Building Community Capacity through Broadband initiative.

This application represents a collaborative effort to build broadband infrastructure in five communities serving over 23,000 customers. By linking the target areas to rural and tribal communities and anchor institutions, improved access to broadband will increase public availability of computer services, enhance public safety communications, better coordinate networks that serve vulnerable populations, improve connections for education and tele-medicine, as well as attract new businesses to the area and assist existing businesses expand. Additionally, it is anticipated that the project will create new jobs and save more than 8,100 jobs over the two year grant period.

For these reasons, I encourage the U.S. Department of Commerce to give full consideration to the University of Wisconsin Extension request. If I may be of further assistance or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator

HK:ry

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LA CROSSE OFFICE:
205 5TH AVENUE SOUTH
SUITE 216
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 796-0045



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I am writing to express my support for University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) and BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor.

Every new or extended use of broadband in Wisconsin is a win for the state and for the country. The most cost effective solution to the use of broadband capability will be enabled by community planning rolled up into regional plans, state plans and ultimately national plans. Supporting the grass-roots implementation of community based networks at the same time as supporting state plans and national plans will provide the best return on investment by providing the best improvements in the national competitive advantage.

I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle
Governor



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 24, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Building Community Capacity through Broadband in the Menominee Nation (Wisconsin)

Dear Mr. Strickling:

We are writing to strongly support the University of Wisconsin-Extension's BTOP grant applications for the following five pilot communities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation, Platteville, Superior, and Wausau. These applications involve comprehensive community infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption and will be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Given the grant's emphasis on building community capacity, we have joined together in a bipartisan effort to raise awareness and support for this beneficial project that meets the goals laid out in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The project application from the Menominee Nation is for a community area network and includes a separate application which will be submitted with Charter Communications. Menominee Nation has been working very closely with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and has been focused on creating a strategy based on local partnerships. This effort will allow those to get access to the technology to access the following areas:

- UW Online credit and non-credit programs
- Skill-building opportunities including GED assistance
- Career exploration
- Workshops for vulnerable populations



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

-2-

Menominee Nation has developed their partnership with UW-Extension to focus their grant application on public computer centers and sustainable adoption. The effort focuses on providing intensive educational outreach to Menominee Nation Members about broadband and its potential for life improvement, business & economic development, and providing investments to spur technological advances.

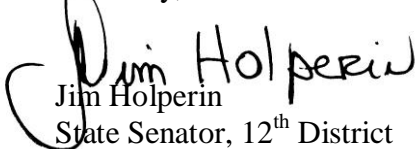
In addition, the Menominee Nation has submitted an infrastructure grant separately and will only be participating in the sustainable adoption grant as part of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's BTOP grant applications for the five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

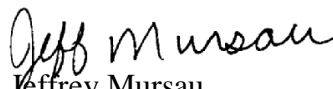
This project is a collaboration designed to meet the broadband network needs of both the public and private sectors, within urban and rural communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin.

We understand and wholeheartedly support the belief that all citizens should have access to broadband and the transforming opportunities it affords. Broadband services will allow Wisconsin residents to access new career and educational opportunities. It can help Wisconsin businesses reach new markets and improve efficiency. It will also help struggling communities that seek to attract new industries while enhancing their local government's capacity to deliver critical services.

Given the innovative and highly positive benefits that may be derived from this effort, we strongly support and urge your positive consideration and maximum funding of UW-Extension's grant request on behalf of the five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,


Jim Holperin
State Senator, 12th District


Jeffrey Mursau
State Representative, 34th District

JCH/bs