

# City of Monterey

Dennis Atha, Mayor  
610 Monterey Pike  
Owenton, Kentucky 40359

July 14, 2008

Dear Chairman Martin,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that all citizens have access to broadband. This issue is particularly important to me, as I have seen Monterey, Kentucky go from dial-up to broadband within the last year.

Our small community is full of artisans and craftsman who can now sell their products all over the world. We would probably still be on dial-up if it weren't for ConnectKentucky bringing us together with Southeast Telephone to build support and find funds for broadband infrastructure.

It has recently come to my attention that ConnectKentucky has been accused of being "dominated" by incumbent telephone companies and that the ConnectKentucky maps are not accurate. I speak from direct experience when I tell you that these claims are false and entirely unfounded – and ConnectKentucky's work in Monterey stands as testament to this fact.

To begin with, the broadband provider which was identified by ConnectKentucky to best serve Monterey is *not* an incumbent telephone company, but is a competitive local exchange carrier, Southeast Telephone, which works to serve Kentucky's rural areas. This company is just one of the many small, local broadband providers that ConnectKentucky works with in our region and across the state to ensure all citizens have access to broadband.

In regard to ConnectKentucky's maps – these are the tools which laid the groundwork for our strategy to deploy broadband to Monterey and surrounding areas that had no service. These mapping tools are essential in identifying citizens who do not have access to broadband. ConnectKentucky has achieved what no one else could do – it brought together all the right players and invested significant resources to map broadband availability in a comprehensive and accurate fashion. I saw firsthand how the process works – ConnectKentucky works with providers – big and small – to gather information on where broadband service exists, and then they work with local communities, businesses, and citizens to make sure the map is correct. And then ConnectKentucky produces these maps and all kinds of related tools on its website for all to use. To say that these maps are not transparent or not useful is an injustice – and is utterly ridiculous. This process for cooperative mapping is a model that should not only be heralded, but should be used again and again for the rest of America.

I was delighted to hear of the growth of ConnectKentucky's work to other states, and I now understand that several states have maps similar to the ConnectKentucky maps. It is my hope that the FCC can use this successful ConnectKentucky model as a guide in leading America to broadband solutions for everyone.

Again, thank you for your work on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Dennis Atha  
Mayor  
City of Monterey

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Tate