



**Vergennes Broadband LLC**  
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March 7, 2014

Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments  
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Vergennes Broadband is a family-owned company that began providing high speed fixed wireless broadband in 2011. 100% of the funding for the construction of its network came from residents of the town of Lowell, MI. Lowell, MI is within many of the census tracts identified by the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiment. The local and authentic character of the company has rewarded it with dramatic growth in its first two years in business.

In 2012, Vergennes Broadband partnered with Carlson Wireless (Arcata, CA) and secured an FCC experimental license to test Carlson's RuralConnect® product (TVWS) with Femtocell technology. During this trial period, the goal was to demonstrate that high speed Internet as well as “5 bars of cell coverage” could be delivered using the TVWS point to multipoint wireless technology. Vergennes Broadband learned a lot and was impressed with what it could do with the technology despite the rolling, tree-covered hills it had to overcome in West Michigan. It is with the same spirit of innovation and experimentation, that Vergennes Broadband expresses its interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Experiment.

Vergennes Broadband believes that TVWS technology will play a critical role in the successful delivery of broadband service to the rural areas of Michigan. While wireless technology is important, Vergennes Broadband knows that spectrum is limited and that the demands of the future must not rest on the shoulders of wireless technology alone.

By constructing 20 new towers and linking all of them with licensed microwave links, Vergennes Broadband will be *closer* than ever to being able to deliver a 1 Gbps connection to over 4,000 homes in its service territory. With 1 Gbps to each tower, it will extend the speed “down the road” using free space optics (FSO), fiber to the pole and, in some cases, fiber to the home. On the towers and poles, it will install access points utilizing TVWS technology virtually immune to interference. This hybrid model overcomes many of the limitations inherent with wireless including its lack of capacity and scarcity of “clean” spectrum.

Vergennes Broadband is currently reviewing the cost of the project. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,000,000.

Sincerely,

Ryan Peel  
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