



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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March 7, 2014

Letter – Expression of Interest
VIA ECFS

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Jonathan Chamber
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington DC

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner, and Mr Chambers

This letter is to express the State of New Hampshire, Department of Resources and Economic Development’s interest in funding from the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting.

Background and case for funding.

The State of New Hampshire is a high tech state with a digital divide between northern and southern regions. As broadband expansion has made considerable progress over the last 4 years with private and public investment there are still challenges to be overcome.

The progress made has benefitted mostly wireline infrastructure but wireless infrastructure and cell service in a state that heavily promotes tourism needs attention and help with investment to attract carriers to all season northern tourist attractions.

Through collaborative efforts between the state and local governments along with local recreational snowmobiles and 4wheeler clubs, 7000 miles of a connecting trail system called “Ride the Wilds” has become a public safety issue.



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Project

The project would be to build 4 cell towers in northern Coos County and fiber to strategic points to backhaul data to points of connection within the telephone network, internet, and public safety personnel systems.

We have secured permission from landowners for a ring of towers to serve Errol, Pittsburg, North Stratford and Stark NH. We have support from the locals, providers, utilities and public safety organizations. We could collaboratively all benefit from the funding to build such a system.

Partners in the project are local landowners, New Hampshire Public Service (PSNH), New Hampshire Optical Systems (NHOS), AT&T Mobile, The University of New Hampshire, the Division of Economic Development (DED – DRED), and NH Department of Safety E911.

Estimated costs of entire project

\$5,000,000

Partners will leverage private and public funding to provide matching dollars to complete the project.

Lastly, this project has already built 1 tower location in Groveton NH and is looking to replicate and build upon that success going north to the Canadian Border. We are hoping you agree the project worthy enough for a second view at which time we can provide the details and metrics you need to evaluate not only the cost of the project but the impact it will have in a rural region that neither has the population base nor the return on investment to attract private funding.

I can be reached for information at carol.miller@dred.nh.gov or by 603-271-2341.

Sincerely



Carol Miller

Director of Broadband Technologies
Division of Economic Development
NH Department of Resources and Economic Development