



MAKAH TRIBE

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201

The Makah Tribe is an equal opportunity employer.



Geoffrey Blackwell, Federal Communications Commission
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy

March 11, 2014

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

The mission of the Makah Tribal Council is to protect, preserve, provide and improve Makah health, safety and welfare and to promote the culture of Makah. As Tribal Leaders we understand that telecommunications will be an essential tool in efficiently carrying this mission out.

We are currently faced with the challenge of a slow speed internet connection that hinders all areas of progress. In planning for and sustaining a broadband infrastructure that will benefit our future generations, we would like to request assistance from your office.

Our Telecommunications Carrier is CenturyLink. Currently, the FCC has required all ETC's to file a standard set of information; as well as, provide this same information to Tribal governments. In compliance with this certification requirement CenturyLink has sent us a copy of the FCC Form 481. Unfortunately the larger percentage of the document is redacted and we are unable to interpret the data.

CenturyLink has stated that in order for the tribe to receive the "confidential" information we must enter into a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). Prior to signing this agreement we would like feedback from the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP). Is this a document that ONAP can share with us on a government-to-government basis without entering into a NDA? If not, is there pertinent information we should be aware of prior to entering into such an agreement?

In addition, CenturyLink has also met its FCC obligation to reach out to our office in an attempt to schedule an annual meeting. In preparation for this meeting we would like to request explanations for the points of discussion that have been suggested by the FCC: (1) deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; (2) feasibility and sustainability planning; (3) marketing services on Tribal lands; (4) rights-of-way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review process; and (5) Tribal business and licensing requirements. Also, are there specific questions we should be prepared to ask CenturyLink?

Obtaining a fiber optic technology that will meet the needs of our community over the next ten years is our ultimate goal; however, we realize that the timeline required to implement such a plan is lengthy. Our community has met the full capacity of bandwidth that CenturyLink has available and we are compelled to explore other short-term alternatives such as microwaving.

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The Makah Tribe appreciates the time that you have taken to assist us in this matter, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Greene, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy J. Greene, Sr.

Chairman, Makah Tribal Council