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24 March 2010

Lawrence Strickling

Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information

Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW

Washington, D.C. 20230-0002

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing in support of the Humboldt Community Access Network (HCAN) application submitted under BTOP to deploy comprehensive community information capabilities in this rural county of northern California.

Local jurisdictions have a critical need for improved access to broadband service to help achieve their core mission of serving and supporting all residents. In Humboldt County, local governments and community anchor institutions have been working for years to advance the deployment of efficient, cost-effective and adequate broadband in our region. HCAN proposes to build a micro wave network for community anchor institutions that will support public safety, education, health, civic engagement and local media access services. In addition, HCAN will also support economic development efforts across industry sectors and create new jobs that rely upon robust and affordable broadband service.

All levels of state and local government face severe resource challenges today. The HCAN proposal addresses the needs of the region and lays out a strategy to overcome the existing prohibitive cost of providing broadband services from the private sector and to overcome the limited broadband access currently available through the private sector.

For these reasons I fully support the HCAN application and encourage your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:lm