Honorable Lawrence Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230  

Re: Application of the City of Miami for Broadband Technology Opportunity Program  
Funding of the “ELEVATE Miami” Project  

Dear Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the City of Miami, I am delighted to support the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), which recently received endorsement from the State of Florida’s Office of Economic Recovery as one of five recommended from a pool of over 120 applications. Throughout the state of Florida and the nation, the ELEVATE Miami model has resonated with governments, civic groups, and businesses. Funding provided by the BTOP program would leverage our past success to achieve even greater economic outcomes, such as jobs in the short term, and community prosperity in the forthcoming years.

ELEVATE Miami began as part of Miami’s Poverty Reduction Initiative, a community-wide response to Miami’s standing as the poorest city in America in the year 2000. Recognizing the power of technology to transform lives, ELEVATE Miami was launched in 2004 to deliver this resource to our most disconnected residents. Specifically, ELEVATE Miami empowers residents via digital inclusion solutions to access broadband technology and the vast array of asset-building services available to transition them from poverty to self-sufficiency.

ELEVATE Miami’s goal is to better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital society and digital economy through a cradle-to-grave approach that targets the key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth, and small businesses.
fully leverage the power of broadband.

ELEVATE Miami’s proposed public computing centers (e-Parks and e-Senior Centers) addresses this by providing access to broadband, training (broadband access and connectivity, computer usage fundamentals, internet and web usage, accessing government benefits, financial fundamentals, better health through the internet, etc.), and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants in over 53 sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

ELEVATE Miami’s pilot has proven so effective that there are now waiting lists for these free and transformative programs. Its success has not gone unnoticed, as Microsoft, Comcast, AT&T, The Knight Foundation, and Citrix have all contributed resources. ELEVATE Miami has also connected broadly in the community to continue leveraging local supports such as the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, faith and community-based organizations, the workforce development and corporate sectors (see attached letters of support).

Consider the support from my colleagues from the US Senate, the US Congress, State of Florida Representatives as well as Miami-Dade County and faith and community-based organizations. They too understand that ELEVATE Miami’s anticipated impact on a minimum of 3,880 households and their estimated residents, as well as the creation of 34 new jobs and saving of 4 jobs, will usher in the change necessary to move Miamians from poverty to prosperity in this community of 2.3 million.

For its vision and already proven efficacy, I believe ELEVATE Miami meets both the intent and requirements for funding by the Public Computing Center BTOP grant program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and hope you will give look favorably upon this application. I urge your strongest consideration of this important proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

KENDRICK B. MEEK
Member of Congress
October 21, 2009

The Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) funding application of the Knight Center of Digital Excellence in partnership with the City of Miami for the “Connect Your Community” project

Dear Secretary Strickling:

The Knight Center of Digital Excellence has submitted an application to the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program in partnership with the City of Miami's Elevate Miami program for their “Connect Your Community” (CYC) project. I strongly support this joint City-Knight Center effort and proposal to bring information age digital literacy skills to the unserved and underserved in my district and the City of Miami. Please note that many communities across the country seek to emulate the successes of the Miami model to date and public and non-profit organizations from nine other communities are joining with the Knight Center as partners in this effort.

Funding the CYC project will enable the City of Miami and its community partners to empower more than 6,000 currently unconnected Miami residents to become skilled, self-confident broadband Internet users. We in South Florida are well aware of the critical role that broadband access and evolving online tools and applications will play in our community's future – in our children's education, the development of our economy, our access to health care, our public services and public engagement, democracy, and the quality of our lives.

However, we also know that thousands of Miami's citizens are neither ready nor prepared for that future for reasons as diverse as cost, education, age, fear, lack of social support, or lack of exposure. Thousand of Miamians still do not have access to the Internet, at any speed, and thousands more are grossly disadvantaged by not being connected to modern broadband access in their homes.
these outstanding partners to mount an all-out, neighbor-to-neighbor effort to close our broadband divide by engaging, training, equipping and supporting thousands of our disconnected fellow citizens to become broadband users over the next two years.

Connect Your Community is a straightforward, common-sense approach to the problem that the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program was created to address. It is strongly supported by the Mayor of Miami, the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, DELL, Hewlett Packard and numerous community-based organizations. My office is committed to work with the Knight Center and the City of Miami to help make it happen. I strongly urge NTIA/BTOP to do the same and ask that you afford the proposal the strongest possible consideration.

Please be sure to contact me if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress
September 28, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to extend broadband network access for under-served residents, educational institutions and local governments in Palm Beach County. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality technology programs benefiting residents of Palm Beach County are important to me as a U.S. Senator. The Palm Beach Broadband Coalition was established in 2006, and has successfully completed two digital inclusion projects. The projects in place provide broadband internet access and computer literacy training to targeted low income families living in inner city neighborhoods. If funded, this program will enable existing Digital Inclusion projects to be expanded or replicated in other areas of Palm Beach County including the underserved western agricultural areas.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Michelle McGovern, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
April 9, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Grant Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the University of South Florida Polytechnic (USFP)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, Middle Mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI), is to provide broadband technology to family households and small businesses. The primary focus of this project will be 300,000 households and 55,000 small businesses in four Florida counties. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality federal programs that establishes a high speed, interconnected network serving the rural and unserved areas in the State of Florida are important to me as a U.S. Senator. USFP has a long history of providing educational classes and other programs to colleges, hospitals and public safety groups. If funded, USFP will have access to educational applications and research that will enable employment opportunities to economically hard hit counties of Desoto, Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Celeste Brown, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
April 8, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Room 5858
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption Grant

Dear Secretary Locke:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Elauwit Community Enhancement Foundation's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to take an integrated approach in increasing broadband access while fostering a long-term adoption in the underserved communities. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality federal programs benefiting low to moderate communities in the State of Florida are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, computer labs will provide educational training programs and homework centers for residents. This will reduce the burden on the federal agency auditing process while ensuring a grassroots success. Furthermore, 478 jobs will be created in Florida.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Mr. Pete Mitchell, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
CC: Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Advisor for Recovery Act Implementation
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program Grant, ID: 7520

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of KG Communications in partnership with the City of Homestead and the City of Florida City's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to provide high speed broadband access to families who live below the poverty level. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

This network will ensure that these families have access to broadband services at a very low cost. Access will also be given to various critical institutions that include, a Community College, several charter schools and skill centers, hospitals, youth and senior community centers and the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause that will enable children to use the Internet in order to further their education. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Mr. Pete Mitchell, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
April 27, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: SmartNet BTOP Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida SmartNet's efforts to obtain a federal grant under the second round of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. The goal of their proposed project is to improve residents' quality of life while providing for job growth opportunities, job training and improved education systems. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for second round of funding.

The Florida SmartNet is a partnership of fifty-five higher education institutions and twenty-six public broadcasting stations formed to create a statewide network to boost and sustain broadband access and education for all Floridians. This Middle Mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Project will link one of the nation's largest community college systems, Florida's public broadcasting stations and one of the nation's largest independent university and college systems.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Diana McGee, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

March 8, 2010

RE: AccessALL Tampa Sustainable Broadband Adoption Project

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Tampa Housing Authority’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project (AccessALL Tampa Sustainable Broadband Adoption Project), is to increase and maintain sustainable subscription rates for broadband services in public housing. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

Quality public housing programs benefiting Hillsborough County is important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, the Tampa Housing Authority will provide broadband service as an amenity to 3,430 public housing households located in twenty-three public housing communities. Furthermore, a pilot test will be conducted to test the installation of 513 computers as standard appliances within 513 households in four of the twenty-three public housing communities. This initiative will significantly enhance the ability of public housing residents to increase education and employment levels by bridging the digital divide.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Digna Alvarez, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
April 8, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Room 5858
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption Grant

Dear Secretary Locke:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Elauwit Community Enhancement Foundation's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to take an integrated approach in increasing broadband access while fostering a long-term adoption in the underserved communities. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality federal programs benefiting low to moderate communities in the State of Florida are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, computer labs will provide educational training programs and homework centers for residents. This will reduce the burden on the federal agency auditing process while ensuring a grassroots success. Furthermore, 478 jobs will be created in Florida.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Mr. Pete Mitchell, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
CC: Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Advisor for Recovery Act Implementation
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230  

RE: Broadband Initiatives Program  

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Dog Island, Florida's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to deploy affordable high-speed broadband in rural and unserved areas in a way that will stimulate economic growth. I respectfully request your consideration of this entity's application for federal funding.

Dog Island is a small isolated island off the coast of Florida and is accessible only by boat or plane. This is a "shovel ready" project which will deploy affordable high-speed broadband in rural and unserved areas. If funded, the deployment of xDSL high-speed broadband to this area will instigate economic development and provide benefits for education, health care and public safety. Furthermore, this project will pass through one hundred twenty households, one business and two critical communication organizations on the island.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 2, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Elaunit Community Enhancement Foundation

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the efforts of the Elauwit Community Enhancement Foundation LLC (ECEF) to obtain funding from the above-mentioned grant opportunity. This non-profit consortium includes several public housing authorities and Boys and Girls Clubs within seven states in the Southeast including Florida. The goal of their proposed project is to assist low-income residents within their network of cities to transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. I respectfully request your consideration of this entity’s application for federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Quality technological programs that promote broadband access are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, the ECEF submission will result in the direct investment of approximately $36 million dollars in Florida. This shovel-ready project will create a significant number of jobs over several years; namely for construction activities, computer centers/stations, training, and free laptops for early adopters. Additionally, ECEF will transform these vulnerable regions by providing necessary communications infrastructure for businesses and families alike.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

CC: Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Advisor for Recovery Act Implementation
Mr. Pete Mitchell, Chief of Staff, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson

United States Senator Bill Nelson, Landmark Two, 223 East Robinson Street, Suite 410, Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephones: (407) 872-7161 • Toll-free in Florida Only (888) 872-4091 • Fax: (407) 872-7165
http://billnelson.senate.gov
September 28, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to extend broadband network access for under-served residents, educational institutions and local governments in Palm Beach County. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

Quality technology programs benefiting residents of Palm Beach County are important to me as a U.S. Senator. The Palm Beach Broadband Coalition was established in 2006, and has successfully completed two digital inclusion projects. The projects in place provide broadband internet access and computer literacy training to targeted low income families living in inner city neighborhoods. If funded, this program will enable existing Digital Inclusion projects to be expanded or replicated in other areas of Palm Beach County including the underserved western agricultural areas.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Michelle McGovern, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
August 11, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Letter of Support - Federal Broadband Infrastructure Stimulus Grant

Dear Honorable Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the efforts' of the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) to obtain funding under the above-mentioned grant. The goal of their proposed project is to significantly impact the expansion of, accessibility to, and affordability of an advanced broadband network throughout a 14-county region serving Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

If funded, the broadband advancement and economic development of North Central Florida will create a sustainable regional and statewide infrastructure that interconnects Community Anchor Institutions and extends advanced broadband infrastructure into communities through Community Area Networks. We believe that NFBA will transform this rural region over the next ten and twenty years and provide the necessary communications infrastructure for current and prospective businesses and industry.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/pg

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 15, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Knight Center of Digital Excellence in partnership with the City of Miami's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, "Connect your Community" (CYC), is to enable the City of Miami and its community partners to empower more than 6,000 currently unconnected Miami residents to become skilled, self-confident broadband Internet users. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality technological programs allowing residents of Miami to gain the skills and access they need to succeed in the digital age are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, CYC will generate awareness for almost one million people, get 60,000 "into seats" for training, graduate 38,000 people and ultimately serve 84,000 people. Furthermore, funding will enable community partners to initiate a neighbor to neighbor effort to close the broadband divide by engaging, training, equipping and supporting thousands of disconnected citizens to become broadband users over the next two years.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 2, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
   Elauwit Community Enhancement Foundation

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the efforts of the Elauwit Community Enhancement Foundation LLC (ECEF) to obtain funding from the above-mentioned grant opportunity. This non-profit consortium includes several public housing authorities and Boys and Girls Clubs within seven states in the Southeast including Florida. The goal of their proposed project is to assist low-income residents within their network of cities to transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. I respectfully request your consideration of this entity's application for federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Quality technological programs that promote broadband access are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, the ECEF submission will result in the direct investment of approximately $36 million dollars in Florida. This shovel-ready project will create a significant number of jobs over several years; namely for construction activities, computer centers/stations, training, and free laptops for early adopters. Additionally, ECEF will transform these vulnerable regions by providing necessary communications infrastructure for businesses and families alike.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]

BN/pg

CC: Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Advisor for Recovery Act Implementation
    Mr. Pete Mitchell, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
December 9, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative (Easygrant ID: 570)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Critical Hub Networks, Inc.'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative, is to create a high capacity undersea "broadband bridge" between Puerto Rico and the State of Florida. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Caribe.Net (Critical Hub Networks, Inc.) is an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which offers Internet and data services in Puerto Rico. If funded, this project will provide new income and business opportunities for Florida's, ISP's, communication and network providers. It will also aid in designating Miami as the communication hub to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut
The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Infrastructure Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of GTC, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint
Communications (GTC)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed projects
are to provide broadband access and internet to FairPoint's service area in the Florida Panhandle.
I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's applications for federal funding.

Quality technological programs benefiting rural residents in six unserved areas located in
the Florida Panhandle are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, these projects will pass a
combined total 485 households, 60 businesses and 4 critical community organizations. The
deployment of xDSL high-speed broadband to this remote, rural and unserved area will generate
economic development and provide benefits for education, health care, and public safety.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further
assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 29, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: City of Miami for Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Miami's (ELEVATE Miami) efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital society and digital economy. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

ELEVATE Miami began as part of a community wide response to the City's standing as the poorest city in America in the year 2000. In 2004, ELEVATE Miami was launched to deliver technology to disconnected residents. This program empowers residents via digital inclusion solutions to access broadband technology and the vast array of asset-building services available to transition them from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

ACTION OFFICE MAN.

BN/Ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230  

RE: ARRA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computing Centers for ELEVATE Miami

Dear Honorable Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Miami’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, ELEVATE Miami, is to allow the City to assist low income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

Quality outreach programs that assist residents in becoming familiar with the use of computer technology are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, ELEVATE Miami will better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital economy and society while targeting key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth and small businesses. ELEVATE Miami’s proposed public computing centers will provide access to broadband, training and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants in over thirty-eight sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 30, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program, CFDA #11.557

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to learn that the Florida Public Broadcasting Service, Inc. (FPBS) has been identified by the Florida Office of Economic Development as a priority or recommended project. In this regard, I also have attached a letter from FPBS sent to you on October 19, 2009.

FPBS is a non-profit organization that represents all of Florida's public broadcasting stations. They serve more than twelve million people per week throughout the state. The group is made up of twenty-six public broadcasting affiliates—thirteen PBS television stations and thirteen NPR radio stations. FPBS works with PBS and NPR member stations, along with state and local groups to promote community outreach projects and educational programming. If funded, several opportunities will be created to include FPBS' ability to build an Internet based PBS programming to help children learn to read, count and recognize colors. Furthermore, information will be provided to parents via the Internet on social and emotional development and school readiness while providing educators with high-quality teaching resources, lesson plans and interactive games. Finally, FPBS proposes to serve not just portions of the underserved and unserved communities within Florida but virtually all the underserved and unserved communities within the state of Florida through their statewide network.

I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding. I express no opinion on the relative merits of this application or urge a particular result. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

Enclosure

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
October 9, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Joytel Wireless Communications, Inc. (JOYTEL)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to expand broadband access across the southeastern region of the country. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

This grant would allow JOYTEL to provide broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in Florida and Georgia by creating a National Alternative Service Access Network (NASA Net). NASA Net will create an open infrastructure to allow over 160 carriers to operate in rural and underserved communities between Miami and Atlanta, which would improve access to broadband service to businesses, public safety agencies and an estimated 3,060,717 households.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
November 2, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Home Town Cable TV, LLC ("HTC")'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, "Middle Mile", is to deliver the first-ever entirely underground, interconnected public safety broadband communications network in the region. This communications network will provide uninterrupted access by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), fire and police stations, hospitals, disaster recovery centers, shelters, and key government buildings.

Quality broadband programs that produce significant benefits to education and health care services in the area are important to me as a U.S. Senator. HTC currently operates one of the country's most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) cable TV and broadband systems in Port St. Lucie. In the past five years, three hurricanes have struck this area and the EOC as well as other first responder stations lost communications due to damage to the aerial communications lines. This project will also deliver free local Internet access to emergency and government agencies. If funded, this underground FTTP system will benefit the public safety agencies schools, colleges, hospitals, and other anchor institutions in the area as well as interconnect with LambdaRail.

I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding without expressing an opinion on the relative merits of this application or urging a particular result. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Michelle McGovern, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program, CFDA #11.557

Dear Assistant Secretary of Commerce Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida Public Broadcasting Services, Inc. (FPBS)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to better serve the underserved and unserved communities within Florida. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

FPBS is a non-profit organization that represents all of Florida's public broadcasting stations. They serve more than twelve million people per week throughout the state. The group is made up of twenty-six public broadcasting affiliates—thirteen PBS television stations and thirteen NPR radio stations. FPBS works with PBS and NPR member stations, along with state and local groups to promote community outreach projects and educational programming. If funded, several opportunities will be created to include FPBS' ability to build an Internet based PBS programming to help children learn to read, count and recognize colors. Furthermore, information will be provided to parents via the Internet on social and emotional development and school readiness while providing educators with high-quality teaching resources, lesson plans and interactive games.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to expand a wireless coverage zone to provide broadband access to more underserved families in high poverty neighborhoods. The coalition's application includes expanding this coverage to the Original Section of Greenacres which has the highest concentration of residents with need. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Another project sponsored by Palm Beach Broadband is the expansion of the Palm Beach County's fiber network and having cities join to gain access to the Florida LambdaRail. This project will enable the City to have broadband technology and provide high speed connections to the City's government and public safety facilities.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Michelle McGovern, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
August 7, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: ARRA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computing Centers for ELEVATE Miami

Dear Honorable Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Miami's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, ELEVATE Miami, is to allow the City to assist low income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality outreach programs that assist residents in becoming familiar with the use of computer technology are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, ELEVATE Miami will better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital economy and society while targeting key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth and small businesses. ELEVATE Miami's proposed public computing centers will provide access to broadband, training and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants in over thirty-eight sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
August 28, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of St. Petersburg Beach, Florida's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to expand its public computing capacity at the St. Petersburg Beach Public Library Computer Center. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality programs that address the computing service needs of the community are important to me as a U.S. Senator. If funded, twenty-four new computer workstations will be installed, the Local Area Network (LAN) networking equipment will be purchased as well as additional equipment for a proposed Mobile Laptop Training Lab in the Library's Computer Center. Furthermore, expanded capability of this library will serve patrons and allow for the public Library Staff participation in free training and workforce development programs offered by the State of Florida.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Shahra Anderson, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
September 14, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to expand a wireless coverage zone to provide broadband access to more underserved families in high poverty neighborhoods. The coalition's application includes expanding this coverage to the Original Section of Greenacres which has the highest concentration of residents with need. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Another project sponsored by Palm Beach Broadband is the expansion of the Palm Beach County's fiber network and having cities join to gain access to the Florida LambdaRail. This project will enable the City to have broadband technology and provide high speed connections to the City's government and public safety facilities.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Michelle McGovern, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
August 10, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Opportunity Florida's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to create new jobs and greater economic capacity for the region. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Quality outreach programs that assist residents in becoming familiar with the use of computer technology are important to me as a U.S. Senator. Opportunity Florida is an eight county economic development organization that serves Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties. If funded, this grant will help residents, businesses and anchor businesses by enabling them to accelerate their broadband access in order to compete in the global economy. Furthermore, funding will bring region wide high speed internet access to the many underserved and unserved residents of this Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). This will allow them access to the many benefits of the Internet, especially in areas of distance learning and telemedicine.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
June 18, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Department of Commerce
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest, Room 5858
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: OneBroward Network Consortium

Dear Secretary Locke:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of OneBroward Network Consortium’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to build a broadband network and positively impact over 1,000 square miles and nearly two million people. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

Broward County is a large, urban county with a significant population of underserved residents when it comes to broadband access. If funded, this project will create a universal broadband network that will aid public schools, government, sheriff’s offices, health care facilities, and universities located within Broward County. This plan includes maximizing existing resources and building upon existing infrastructure to achieve this goal.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Willowstine Lawson, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
November 6, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Locke and Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Home Town Cable TV, LLC (HTC) in their efforts to obtain funding for a proposed “middle mile” project in Port St. Lucie, Florida through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

HTC currently operates one of the country’s most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) cable TV and broadband systems in Florida. HTC is prepared to use this advanced system as a basis to provide the first-ever entirely-underground, interconnected public safety broadband communications network in the region, which will connect and virtually ensure uninterrupted access to first responders and emergency operations professionals during hurricanes and other natural disasters. As a long-time resident of South Florida, I understand how essential this access to public safety communications networks is to our citizens. It is in this vein that I wholeheartedly support HTC’s efforts to build this essential infrastructure, which will also provide much-needed economic stimulus and employment opportunities in South Florida.

Quality, affordable broadband technology that benefits the citizens of State of Florida and the entire nation is among my top priorities. Accordingly, I would request that the U.S. Department of Commerce give full and fair consideration to HTC’s request for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

With warm regards,

Robert Wexler
November 6, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Locke and Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Home Town Cable TV, LLC (HTC) in their efforts to obtain funding for a proposed “middle mile” project in Port St. Lucie, Florida through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

HTC currently operates one of the country’s most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) cable TV and broadband systems in Florida. HTC is prepared to use this advanced system as a basis to provide the first-ever entirely-underground, interconnected public safety broadband communications network in the region, which will connect and virtually ensure uninterrupted access to first responders and emergency operations professionals during hurricanes and other natural disasters. As a long-time resident of South Florida, I understand how essential this access to public safety communications networks is to our citizens. It is in this vein that I wholeheartedly support HTC’s efforts to build this essential infrastructure, which will also provide much-needed economic stimulus and employment opportunities in South Florida.

Quality, affordable broadband technology that benefits the citizens of State of Florida and the entire nation is among my top priorities. Accordingly, I would request that the U.S. Department of Commerce give full and fair consideration to HTC’s request for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

With warm regards,

Robert Wexler
November 6, 2009

ROBERT WEXLER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Locke and Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Home Town Cable TV, LLC (HTC) in their efforts to obtain funding for a proposed “middle mile” project in Port St. Lucie, Florida through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

HTC currently operates one of the country’s most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) cable TV and broadband systems in Florida. HTC is prepared to use this advanced system as a basis to provide the first-ever entirely-underground, interconnected public safety broadband communications network in the region, which will connect and virtually ensure uninterrupted access to first responders and emergency operations professionals during hurricanes and other natural disasters. As a long-time resident of South Florida, I understand how essential this access to public safety communications networks is to our citizens. It is in this vein that I wholeheartedly support HTC’s efforts to build this essential infrastructure, which will also provide much-needed economic stimulus and employment opportunities in South Florida.

Quality, affordable broadband technology that benefits the citizens of State of Florida and the entire nation is among my top priorities. Accordingly, I would request that the U.S. Department of Commerce give full and fair consideration to HTC’s request for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

With warm regards,

Robert Wexler

Palm Beach County:
2500 North Military Trail
Suite 490
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Washington, DC:
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Broward County:
Margate City Hall
March 29, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

It has come to my attention that Palm Beach County, Florida has applied for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program’s Comprehensive Community Infrastructure program.

Funds from this grant will assist Palm Beach County in providing broadband services to an economically disadvantaged and geographic isolated area. The need for broadband services within the region is not adequately addressed by resources that are currently available.

The proposed project will reduce costs to local governments by interconnecting local, state, and other governmental agencies and improve the quality of the region’s workforce by providing enhanced educational resources. Therefore, I respectfully request that Palm Beach County’s application be given full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

ACTION OFFICE
Copies to: Camp, Affairs
Suspense Date: 5/6/2010
REMARKS
CONTROL#: 3F11

BTO # 5459
March 29, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

It has come to my attention that the City of Belle Glades, Florida has applied for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure program.

Funds from this grant will assist the City in providing broadband services to an economically disadvantaged and geographic isolated area. The need for broadband services within the region is not adequately addressed by resources that are currently available.

The proposed project will reduce costs to local governments by interconnecting local, state, and other governmental agencies and improve the quality of the region's workforce by providing enhanced educational resources. Therefore, I respectfully request that the City of Belle Glades' application be given full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

ACTION OFFICE
COPIES TO

SUSPENSE DATE 5/13/2010
REMARKS
CONTROL #: 8547
Larry Strickland  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230  

Dear Mr. Strickling:

It has come to my attention that KG Communications along with its partners, the Cities of Homestead and Florida City, have applied for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant.

Funds from this grant would allow KG Communications to provide broadband services to the underserved communities of Miami-Dade County. The proposed project will provide an infrastructure network not only to its residents but to the surrounding educational institutions, public safety agencies, and community centers for both seniors and youth programs.

In addition, the proposed project will create approximately 250 jobs for the economically distressed area. Therefore, I respectfully request that KG Communications' application be given full and fair consideration. Thank you for your assistance to this matter.

Sincerely,

George S. LeMieux  
United States Senator

ACTION OFFICE:  
Copies to: Cong. Affairs  

Suspense Date: 5/27/2010  
Remarks:  
Control #: 3724
October 23, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program, CFDA #11.557

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Florida Public Broadcasting Services Inc. (FPBS), a non-profit organization in the Tampa Bay area which represents all of Florida’s public broadcasting stations, has applied for a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce. I would like to convey my full support for FPBS’s BTOP grant application.

This grant will allow FPBS to strengthen statewide middle mile infrastructure to reach five under- and unserved areas spanning 30 counties across the state. Because FPBS reaches 99% of the Florida market, the grant will maximize their efforts in areas including improving health care services, enhancing educational and job training, increasing public safety partnerships, and boosting economic development. Additionally, this program will serve as a prototype for other Public Broadcasting Stations across the country.

With this federal funding, FPBS can improve and expand broadband service to improve our communities and increase opportunities for our state’s residents. I respectfully urge you to give the FPBS every consideration for a BTOP grant.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida District 11
The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Honorable Strickling:

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to offer this letter in support of Connected Community Infrastructures, LLC (CCI)'s application for Recovery Act Round 2 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant funding.

CCI is a unique private/public partnership that has been formed to bring low cost, high speed broadband services to northeast Florida, and to specifically meet the technology needs of a wide range of key anchor institutions serving this region. Notable among the project's goals is to dramatically improve broadband service in connection with the Edward Waters College Public Computer Center (which is also the subject of a Round 2 BTOP grant application). The combination of the CCI network and the EWC PCC will create an incredibly valuable resource for our community both in terms of enhanced educational goals and economic development for an underserved and economically disadvantaged population.

The CCI project will also extend significant benefits to this region by enhancing the broadband connectivity available to other educational institutions (including the Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jones College and Flagler College), to several of our major medical institutions (Baptist Healthcare and UF Shands), and to the various components of our consolidated local City/County government (public libraries/police/fire/emergency response).

The proposed CCI network has the capabilities to accomplish real economic development and job creation for this region, positively impacting both urban and rural communities, and equally important, serving underserved and economically disadvantaged citizens with affordable broadband access and services. This is the focus we need and I believe CCI brings the requisite knowledge, skills, abilities and creative energies to this vital economic and technological challenge sought to be addressed by this grant opportunity.
With kindest regards,

Nick Martinelli

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

CB:jg
Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for JOYTEL Wireless Communications Inc. (JOYTEL), an innovative and forward-thinking technology company who has submitted an application for the Recovery Act Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This is a company comprised of not only the latest in technological and broadband expertise, but they bring a vibrancy and energy to an ever expanding industry. This is a fusion of knowledge and drive that sets a tone for the future of this industry, thus, empowering communities and providing meaningful change for generations.

JOYTEL has the capabilities to accomplish a number of economic development activities, to include jobs creation that will impact urban and rural communities, and equally important, serve underserved communities with affordable high speed broadband access and services. Their application also addresses the goals of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Act, increase and expand computing capabilities for educational, healthcare, public safety and emergency services areas. These are critical to our ability to utilize this technology to deliver a better and safer quality of life for all our citizens. This is the focus we need and I believe JOYTEL brings the requisite knowledge, skills, abilities and creative energies to this most critical economic and technological juncture, and especially for this grant opportunity. Therefore, I strongly support their application and encourage your positive review. And, if I can be of further service, please feel free to call, and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress
November 3, 2009

Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

I am writing regarding the Manatee Education Foundation's application in conjunction with the Knight Center of Digital Excellence for Broadband Technology Opportunity funding of the "Connect Your Community" project. I appreciate your consideration of their application.

If implemented, the Manatee Education Foundation's project will empower more than 3,000 disconnected Bradenton residents to become skilled, self-confident broadband Internet users. I am pleased to tell you that the Manatee Education Foundation has partnered with the Manatee County Public Schools and Bradenton's Central Community Redevelopment Agency to mount an all-out, neighbor-to-neighbor effort to engage, train, equip and support thousands of our disconnected fellow citizens to become broadband users over the next two years.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

ACTION OFFICE  Manu
COPIES TO  Cong.AFFAIRS
SUSPENSE DATE  12/2/2009
REMARKS
CONTROL# 1982

218 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6619
FAX (202) 225-6028

225 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE
SUITE 211
SARASOTA, FL 34236
(941) 951-5643

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I write this letter to urge your consideration for the Florida Public Broadcasting Service Inc. application for federal broadband grant money under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (NTIA BTOP).

The application for grant money, as set forth in the Florida Public Broadcasting Service (FPBS) application, would enable this non-profit institution to network their radio and television member stations throughout our state across a high speed backbone network provided by Florida LambdaRail. With this network in place, they will be able to decrease their cost of providing services. Additionally they will be able to stimulate demand for broadband, economic growth and job creation through their ability to provide more efficient, improved access to broadband and to provide more widely deployed broadband programs. These public broadcasting stations are targeting educational initiatives to include K-12 and Department of Education centralized needs, school safety, underserved rural and urban areas, the elderly, and safety applications for first responders in public buildings.

Florida’s network could become the prototype for all public broadcast stations to collaborate on a high speed backbone network that will enable them to replicate and role out similar and much needed services across the country. I urge your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Allen Boyd
Member of Congress
March 8, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Miami’s proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. The City of Miami’s application represents the best of innovative government by allowing the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

As technology becomes an increasingly important tool to manage our lives as parents, business people, and citizens, access for our underserved and under-connected communities becomes critically important. Investing in the technological connectivity of our community will pay a high rate of return as it has time and time again in communities around our country.

South Florida has been severely impacted by the downturn in the economy, as it’s heavily reliant on travel and tourism which has slowed significantly. More than ever, we need to make an investment in our residents to develop a workforce attractive to diverse industries in the global economy.

Of the many benefits that come from an investment in the establishment and growth of public computer centers and its inherent access to broadband, the following are reasons why I support this effort:

- Reduced costs to local government, enhanced public service delivery, and interconnecting state, county, and city governments efforts to leverage resources.
- Reduction of the digital divide barrier for our most underserved students and families by leveraging digital learning tools and increasing access to government, healthcare and education.
- Improved quality of the region’s workforce.
- Creation of jobs through this project and by creating a technologically supportive environment attractive to large companies, small business and entrepreneurs.
through the over four years of previous programming conducted by the City of Miami and the recently awarded Sustainable Broadband Adoption grant from BTOP to the Miami-Dade County Public School System which is a long time collaborator and ally in these efforts. An investment in the proposed project will expand education opportunities, increase access to education and training, streamline government, stimulate jobs, save tax dollars and grow the potential of those in greatest need to realize their potential.

I, therefore, hope you will look favorably on this application and see the progress that is being made in the City of Miami.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress
December 15, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities and the Broadband Initiatives Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to extend the high speed internet capacity to local last-mile providers. This will serve vital public sector services and private sector commercial customers. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

The North Florida Broadband Authority is a newly formed government entity established specifically for the purpose of bringing broadband services to the North Florida region. If funded, this network will provide capacity and reach to cover more than 154,000 households and 26,893 businesses. In addition, this project will provide the potential to connect 1,573 critical facilities and 265 healthcare entities.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Michelle Barth, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary

National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Strickling,

I write in support of Home Town Cable (HTC), LLC's application for funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. HTC has partnered with the City of Port St. Lucie Emergency Operations Center and the Port St. Lucie Fire Department to create the first ever underground broadband network in the region, capable of withstanding hurricanes and severe tropical storms that have historically wiped out communications and hindered emergency rescue and response efforts.

This network would address a critical public safety need during and after severe storms in this region by providing emergency responders, fire and police stations, hospitals, shelters and more with reliable uninterrupted communication with one another; making emergency response efforts faster, more organized and more efficient.

As a resident of South Florida for 25 years, I understand the importance of investing in our infrastructure to provide emergency responders with the tools they need to better do their jobs following a hurricane or other natural disaster. With a reliable interconnected broadband safety network, we can better serve the residents of South Florida by ensuring those in need receive immediate assistance in the event of an emergency.

HTC operates one the most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) networks in the country, and is well suited to help the City of Port St. Lucie build this revolutionary broadband communications network. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their application for funding under BTOP, and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Kindest regards,

Ron Klein  
Member of Congress

Cc: U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke
March 12, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I would like to bring to your attention the City of Miami’s application to the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program’s Public Computer Center (BTOP PCC) grant. According to the City of Miami, this grant will enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers in our community.

Technology has become an increasingly important tool to manage our lives as parents, business people, and ordinary citizens. Providing equal access to currently underserved and under-connected communities is critically important. According to the City of Miami, investing in the technological connectivity of our community will pay a high rate of return as it has time and time again in communities around our country.

The City of Miami states that the BTOP PCC grant will help reduce costs to local governments and enhance public service delivery. It will also help reduce the digital divide barrier for our most underserved students and families by leveraging digital learning tools and increasing access to government, healthcare and education.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, I encourage you to give the City of Miami’s grant application due consideration. The City of Miami’s project is in line with the priorities of the BTOP PCC grant and the needs of the South Florida community. Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

IRL:jhs/dfh
March 11, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program's Public Computer Center Grant

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of North Miami’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project, ELEVATE Miami, is to address the regional needs by providing publicly accessible computer centers as well as training to ensure that residents are able to maximize this vital resource. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

This unique partnership between the City of North Miami, the City of Miami and other stakeholders ensures that the synergies of their efforts connect all residents regardless of age. South Florida has been impacted by the downtown in the economy, and investments such as these will enable diversification of the economic base, thus creating momentum for sustainable economic growth.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
March 15, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program's Public Computer Center

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Miami's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to help provide broadband access to the underserved and under connected communities in South Florida. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

The City of Miami seeks to reduce the digital divide barrier for underserved students and families by leveraging digital learning tools and generating long term economic growth. If funded, this project will expand education opportunities, increase access to education and training, and promote jobs. Investing in this technological connectivity in the South Florida community will have a high rate of return and improve the quality of the region's workforce.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Laura Fatovic, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
March 24, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP)

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Connected Community Infrastructure, LLC (CCI)’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to expand broadband access in northeast Florida, and to provide broadband connections between this region and the two closest Tier 1 broadband hubs in Miami and Atlanta. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

CCI’s proposed network will provide the necessary connections with the planned network of the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) and the Florida LambdaRail educational/medical network. This network will also provide low cost, high speed broadband services to key anchor institutions in Duval County that include the City of Jacksonville, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Baptist Healthcare of Jacksonville, Edward Waters College and the University of Florida Shands Medical Center of Jacksonville. CCI represents a unique public and private partnership that brings together some of the best resources for this region that will provide substantial economic and social benefits.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Michelle Barth, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
March 30, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

It has come to my attention that the City of Miami has applied for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program’s Public Computer Center grant.

Funds from this grant will assist the City of Miami in improving the quality of its regional workforce. This proposed project will create jobs in an underserved community and leverage digital learning tools and increase access to government, healthcare and education thereby reducing the digital divide barrier for its underserved students and families.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the City of Miami’s application be given full and fair consideration. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator
March 29, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

It has come to my attention that Palm Beach County, Florida has applied for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program’s Comprehensive Community Infrastructure program.

Funds from this grant will assist Palm Beach County in providing broadband services to an economically disadvantaged and geographic isolated area. The need for broadband services within the region is not adequately addressed by resources that are currently available.

The proposed project will reduce costs to local governments by interconnecting local, state, and other governmental agencies and improve the quality of the region’s workforce by providing enhanced educational resources. Therefore, I respectfully request that Palm Beach County’s application be given full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
George B. LeMieux
United States Senator
March 30, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickland
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickland:

It has come to my attention that the Florida College System Foundation has applied for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant.

Funds from this grant would allow the Florida College System Foundation and its stakeholders to create a statewide broadband infrastructure in order to better serve the higher education institutions within the state of Florida. In addition, the proposed project will create immediate benefits and will provide expanded broadband access and education to every unserved, underserved and economically challenged community in the state.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Florida College System Foundation’s application be given full and fair consideration. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator
May 25, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA)'s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to significantly improve communities in Northern Florida since they lack access to high-speed Internet service. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

The services FRBA will provide include: e911, online government access, online training courses, access to records, information transfer to other agencies, increase educational opportunities and increase access to healthcare and online community resources. If funded, broadband services can deliver the speed and reliability that will allow these communities to compete with the rest of the world.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

Debbie Bynum, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
May 25, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA) Grant Application for Broadband Funding

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA)’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to significantly improve communities in Northern Florida since they lack access to high-speed Internet service. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization’s application for federal funding.

The services FRBA will provide include: 911, online government access, online training courses, access to records, information transfer to other agencies, increase educational opportunities and increase access to healthcare and online community resources. If funded, broadband services can deliver the speed and reliability that will allow these communities to compete with the rest of the world.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
June 14, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I write in support of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (OMB #0600031) grant proposal submitted by the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida for Florida SmartNet (EGID: 6879) technology, which will link 66 higher education institutions and 12 public broadcasting stations into one integrated broadband network. This will enable communities throughout the state, especially economically-distressed areas like Florida’s 23rd Congressional district, which I represent, to benefit from all of the opportunities that access to broadband technology provides.

Federal funding for this project will create immediate on-campus, on-line and on-air benefits for Florida; thus, triggering benefits for underserved and rural communities where higher educational opportunities have been scarce. This important project will offer a demonstration to other states on how best to align, assemble, and amplify existing higher education capacity and technology to maximize higher education’s role in the future success of each state economy.

Thank you for consideration of this important grant. I respectfully request to be kept informed of the overall progress of this request and when a decision will be made. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

ACTION OFFICE  MAIN  AFFAIRS
June 15, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 5E742
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my strong support for the grant application under the second round of funding for the "Broadband Technology Opportunities Program" (OMB # 06600031) submitted by The Florida College System, the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and the Florida Public Broadcasting Services Inc.

Funding obtained through this grant will allow for an integrated broadband network for all Florida colleges, universities, and Public Broadcasting Service stations. This grant would allow for interconnectivity and expanded services at colleges and universities throughout the state and thereby expands educational opportunities for more than one million Florida students. Additionally, this project will reach underserved and economically distressed areas that currently have no access to broadband technologies. This funding will stimulate needed job growth and attract major businesses to Florida.

I ask that you give this grant application your most thoughtful and serious consideration. Thank you for your time and assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Suzanne M. Kosmas
Congresswoman
June 8, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to offer my support to Florida SmartNet’s application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant. These funds will allow Florida SmartNet to create a statewide network to boost and sustain broadband access and education for all residents in Florida. By tying together the Florida College System, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF), and the Florida Public Broadcasting System, Florida SmartNet will leverage the existing Florida Lambda Rail network backbone, of which the State University System (SUS) is already a part.

Florida SmartNet’s proposal is a collaborative, multi-faceted response to the need of Florida’s academic institutions. This funding will partner 55 higher education institutions, 26 public broadcasting stations as well as the 12 major universities and 301,135 total students already on the Florida Lambda Rail through SUS. This partnership will result in enhanced connectivity options for anchor institutions, enabling real time research collaboration. The result will be an across the board boost for advanced research, education, and economic development activities in the state of Florida, utilizing next generation network technologies, protocols, and services.

Overall, this will engender increased economic development and high-tech innovation, vital to the State of Florida and the county. I, therefore, am pleased to offer my support to Florida SmartNet for the receipt of this BTOP grant. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
July 13, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

RE: National Telecommunications Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Winter Garden’s efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to allow the City to construct a municipal broadband network that would benefit both public and private entities in Winter Garden while also serving the community. I respectfully request your consideration of this entity’s application for federal funding.

The City of Winter Garden is a place for growing families and is ranked as one of the fastest growing suburbs in Central Florida. However, a robust telecommunications infrastructure is essential in order to provide critical community services. If funded, this project will install almost twenty miles of fiber along targeted corridors that will create high-speed broadband connectivity to a service area of almost 30,000 residents and 1,000 businesses. Furthermore, this will positively impact economic development and job creation while providing a foundation for advanced business telecommunications and digital media.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Celeste Brown, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
July 12, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Strickling:

It has come to my attention that the City of Winter Garden has applied for funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Funds from this grant would allow the City to construct a municipal broadband network that would benefit both public and private entities in Winter Garden while also serving the surrounding community. In addition, the proposed project will have a positive impact on economic development and job creation within the community by providing a foundation for advanced business telecommunications and digital media, which will be used to attract new businesses to the local market.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the City of Winter Garden’s be given full and fair consideration. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator
Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Department of Commerce/NTIA’s Broadband Projects to Improve Public Safety Communications

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I write in support of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant proposal submitted by the City of Pembroke Pines. Federal funding will enable communities throughout South Florida, especially economically-distressed areas like Florida’s 23rd Congressional District, which I represent, to benefit from all of the opportunities that access to broadband technology provides.

The City of Pembroke Pines’ BTOP application seeks to provide for deployment of Long Term Evolution (LTE) facilities for public safety use. Deployment of LTE interoperable wireless broadband networks, the technology of choice by public safety nationwide, will ensure nationwide interoperability, market competition, and economies of scale as a consequence of simultaneous commercial deployment. This next generation broadband technology will enable public safety entities to capitalize on critical broadband applications, such as streaming video, digital imaging, automatic vehicle location, computer-aided dispatching, mapping/GIS, remote database access, report management, web access, and other bandwidth intensive applications yet to be developed.

As you may know, the City of Pembroke Pines is the only Florida entity—and one of 24 entities nationally—that was invited to apply for this limited reopening of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant funding opportunity. With the City’s LTE public safety network in place, it will provide police, fire and EMS agencies with the ability to operate much more efficiently, and allow for the interoperable communications needed to further the safety of our and nation. This important project will offer a demonstration to other states on
how best to align, assemble, and amplify existing higher education capacity for higher education’s role in the future success of each state economy.

Thank you for consideration of this important grant. I respectfully request to be kept informed of the overall progress of this request and when a decision will be made. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress
November 3, 2009

Mr. Nathaniel Wienecke
Asst. Sec. For Legislative Affairs
Department of Commerce
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5421
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Nathaniel:

I am enclosing a copy of correspondence I recently received from Charles Judice regarding the problem he has encountered with the Dept. of Commerce. You should find the letter self-explanatory.

Your assistance in looking into this situation for me and providing information that will help me respond to my constituent would be appreciated. Your response may be sent to my District Office at the following address:

3000 N Ponce de Leon Blvd, Ste 1
St Augustine, FL 32084
Phone (904) 810-5048
Fax (904) 810-5091

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

JLM cbb

entire application
(~30pp) available upon request.
NOTICE

The PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 requires that written consent be obtained from the constituent before information can be disclosed from records with a federal agency. So that Congressman Mica might act on your behalf, he would appreciate your signing the following statement. (If you are inquiring on behalf of another person, it is necessary that they sign the statement.)

☑ DATE: 11/2/09

☑ NAME: Charles Justice

☑ ADDRESS: 1011 Bella Vista Blvd APT #: 102

☑ CITY: St Augustine STATE: FL ZIP: 32084

☑ HOME PHONE: 732-243-0474 WORK PHONE: __________

☑ SOCIAL SECURITY #: __________ DATE OF BIRTH: 5/10/45

☑ ALIEN #: A __________ VETERAN CLAIM #: C __________

☑ ID #: __________

☑ WHICH FEDERAL AGENCY WOULD YOU LIKE HELP WITH?: ____________

☑ Please state the problem and desired result briefly (Use back if necessary):

Find out the status of the BID grant application (field of St. Brendan Habitat for Humanity)

☐ SIGNATURE: __________

CSW: __________ CASE #: __________ AGENCY: __________
# A. General Application Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Legal Name</th>
<th>Elaze Digerati LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</td>
<td>205832724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street 1:</td>
<td>1011 Bella Vista Blvd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street 2:</td>
<td>Apt 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zip/Postal Code:</td>
<td>32084-1218</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Prefix:                | Dr.                                                     |
| First Name:            | Charles                                                 |
| Middle Name:           |                                                         |
| Last Name:             | Judico                                                  |
| Suffix:                |                                                         |
| Telephone Number:      | 732-282-0411                                            |
| Fax Number:            |                                                         |
| Email:                 | cjudico@elaze.com                                       |
| Title:                 | President                                               |

---

**Submitted Date:** 9/14/2009 9:41:55 AM  
**Easygrants ID:** 1386  
**Funding Opportunity:** Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption  
**Applicant Organization:** Elaze Digerati LLC  
**Applicant Name:** Dr. Charles Judico
Dear Anna:

I am very pleased to bring to your attention and ask for your careful consideration of the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network's proposed CBO Connect project.

As you may know, the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc. (HITN) was established in 1983 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to advance the educational, cultural, and socio-economic aspirations of Hispanics in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. HITN is working with Redlands Christian Migrant Association in Crescent City, Fl. to bring broadband access to an extremely rural area in my district.

Again, I strongly recommend that the award of this grant and believe it will allow the community to continue to grow and address the needs of our rural constituents.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,

John Mica  
Member of Congress

JUL 24 2009
The Honorable Lawrence Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

This is to share with you my support for an application by the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to expand its public computing capacity at the St. Pete Beach Public Library Computer Center.

Founded in 1951, the St. Pete Beach Library provides residents of all ages with access to a variety of materials, services, and information technology training. In an effort to expand its service capacity, the city is seeking federal assistance to install 24 new computer workstations, purchase necessary Local Area Network (LAN) networking equipment, as well as additional equipment for a proposed Mobile Laptop Training Lab in the Library’s Public Computer Center.

Additionally, this grant funding will provide for the expanded capability of the St. Pete Beach Public Library to serve patrons through the installation of wireless internet access using Wi-Fi technology, and allow for the public and library staff to participate in free training and workforce development programs offered by the state of Florida.

It is my hope that you will give this application by the City of St. Pete Beach every possible consideration. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

C. W. Bill Young  
Member of Congress
Dear Sir/Madam:

I am delighted to provide this letter of support for the City of Miami's ELEVATE Miami proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. ELEVATE Miami represents the best of innovative government by allowing the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

ELEVATE Miami will help low-income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. Ultimately, however, ELEVATE Miami’s goal is to better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital economy and society through a cradle-to-grave approach that targets the key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth, and small businesses.

ELEVATE Miami recognizes that broadband infrastructure without instruction will never fully capture the power of broadband connectivity or stimulate residential connectivity. To address this, ELEVATE Miami’s proposed public computing centers (e-Parks and e-Senior Centers) will provide access to broadband, training (broadband access and connectivity, computer usage fundamentals, Internet and web usage, accessing government benefits, financial fundamentals, better health through the internet, etc.), and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants.

The program's success has not gone unnoticed. ELEVATE Miami's pilot has proven so effective that not only are there waiting lists for this free, transformative service but since its inception, Microsoft, Comcast, AT&T, The Knight Foundation, and Citrix have all contributed resources to their efforts. ELEVATE Miami has also received strong support from the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, faith and community based organizations, and the workforce development and corporate sectors.
I, therefore, hope you will look favorably on this application and see the progress that is being made in the City of Miami.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress
March 12, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for OneBroward, Inc. application for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant. OneBroward represents the best of innovative coalition building incorporating Broward County Schools, Broward County Government, Broward Sheriff's Office, Broward Health, Memorial Healthcare, Nova Southeastern University, Broward College and Florida Atlantic University.

OneBroward will help low-income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. Ultimately, however, One Broward's goal is to better prepare South Floridians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital economy and society through a cradle-to-grave approach that targets the key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth, and small businesses.

In this challenging economy, OneBroward's consortium represents a tested and transformative service, leveraging their wide network to produce a positive change for our neediest in the fifth poorest city in the nation. Their innovative proposal will improve access to education, healthcare, public safety and government services and accelerate economic development covering over 1,000 square miles and up to two million South Floridians.

For its vision and proven efficacy, I believe OneBroward meets both the intent and requirements to receive funding through the BTOP grant program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

I, therefore, hope you will look favorably on this application and see the progress that is being made in the Broward County.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress
March 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Glades Broadband Initiative

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am writing to express my strong interest in the grant application for funding under the “Broadband Technology Opportunities Program” (OMB# 06600031) submitted by Palm Beach Broadband for their (Glades Broadband Initiative) Project (GBI).

GBI will provide broadband services to community anchor organizations such as education, medical, and public safety entities to meet the needs of the unserved and underserved Glades region. This project will serve an economically disadvantaged and geographic isolated area that currently has a significant need for broadband services that is not adequately addressed by resources currently available within the region.

This project will reduce costs to local governments by interconnecting local, state, and other governmental agencies; improve local healthcare by providing telemedicine opportunities; and improve the quality of the region’s workforce by providing enhanced educational resources.

I ask that you give this grant application your most thoughtful and serious consideration. If there is any additional information that my office can provide, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Katie Ballard at 772-288-4668. I would very much appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and keep me apprised of your action on this application when review is complete. You should respond to Katie Ballard, care of my Stuart office.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Katie Ballard @ mail.house.gov

ACTION OFFICE

COPY TO

SUSPENSE DATE 4/16/2010

REMARKS

CONTROL# 3178

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress
August 6, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Honorable Larry Strickling:

Please accept this letter of support for Florida’s Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative’s (FHREDI) application for a broadband access grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This grant is awarded through the NTIA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the USDA’s Broadband Initiatives Program.

FHREDI is a regional economic development organization that serves Desoto, Hardee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee counties. These rural counties are of critical economic concern and suffer from a significant lack of access to sufficient broadband connection. The digital divide between these rural counties and developed areas in my district is very evident and only enhances the need for the successful awarding of this grant.

High-speed, affordable access to the internet in these rural counties will help foster economic development and ultimately create more jobs. The Network Access Points (NAPs) in each county will allow private industries to better reach out to their customers and to provide a higher level of service. Not only will small businesses and public and government entities benefit from this grant, but students will also gain critical access to the internet, leading to a more enriched education and better future.

Thank you for your consideration of FHREDI’s grant application. I truly believe this will be a monumental step in my district and will have a tremendous impact on much needed rural economic development.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress
August 5, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I would like to bring your attention to the City of Miami's ELEVATE Miami proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. According to the City of Miami, ELEVATE Miami would allow the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest citizens in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

ELEVATE Miami will help low-income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. They also recognize that broadband infrastructure without instruction will never fully capture the power of broadband connectivity or stimulate residential connectivity. To address this, ELEVATE Miami's proposed public computing centers (e-Parks and e-Senior Centers) will provide access to broadband, training (broadband access and connectivity, computer usage fundamentals, Internet and web usage, accessing government benefits, financial fundamentals, better health through the internet, etc.), and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants.

The City of Miami states that the program's pilot has proven so effective that there are already waiting lists for this free, transformative service. Also, since its inception, Microsoft, Comcast, AT&T, The Knight Foundation, and Citrix have all contributed resources to the program's efforts. The City also states that ELEVATE Miami has received strong support from the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, faith and community based organizations, and the workforce development and corporate sectors.

ACTION OFFICE: 

COPIES TO:

SUSPENSE DATE: 11/20/09
REMARKS:
CONTROL#: 09-1582
October 26, 2009

Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I would like to take this opportunity and express my to the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). Throughout the state of Florida and the nation, the ELEVATE Miami model has resonated with governments, civic groups, and businesses.

ELEVATE Miami’s goal is to better prepare Miamians of all ages to participate and compete in the new digital society and digital economy through a cradle-to-grave approach that targets the key populations of workforce age adults, seniors, youth, and small businesses. ELEVATE Miami’s proposed public computing centers addresses this by providing access to broadband, training and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants in over 53 sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

ELEVATE Miami has also connected broadly in the community to continue leveraging local supports such as the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, faith and community based organizations, the workforce development and corporate sectors. ELEVATE Miami’s anticipated impact on a minimum of 3,880 households and their estimated residents, as well as the creation of 34 new jobs and saving of 4 jobs, will usher in the change necessary to move Miamians from poverty to prosperity in this community of 2.3 million.

Once again, I want to express my strongest support for the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal. I believe ELEVATE Miami meets both the intent and requirements for funding by the Public Computing Center BTOP grant program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In accordance with all applicable rules and regulation, I hope you will this application due consideration.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL: gv
In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, I ask that FiberLight LLC's application is given your usual full and fair consideration. Again, thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Since ly,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL:jhs/wh

Cc: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Cc: Governor Charlie Crist
Office of Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Cc: Mike Miller
Chief Executive Officer
FiberLight LLC
3655 Brookside Parkway, Suite 550
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Cc: Monroe County Officials
October 5, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I would like to draw your attention to a grant application submitted by FiberLight LLC concerning a project located in my Congressional District. FiberLight is applying for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Grant to assist in expanding its South Florida terrestrial-based middle mile network.

This grant would provide funds to help FiberLight extend its network backbone network, 195 miles south from Miami, through Homestead and Florida City, all the way to Key West, allowing it to service all of Monroe County. The entire scope of the expansion will allow its network to directly pass through an additional 49 rural communities and would leverage its existing South Florida Network to deploy and operate the proposed expansions.

FiberLight’s South Florida Network expansion is being endorsed by the Monroe County Commission Members and FiberLight has stated that it will provide, at no cost, two backbone fibers to Monroe County for the purpose of connecting schools, airports, hospitals, police stations, fire stations, and local government administrative buildings throughout the Florida Keys. The County currently leases a network to connect the County’s anchor institutions; however, the current provider has formally notified the County that the network will no longer be available after December 2010, essentially leaving the County’s anchor institutions stranded without broadband access. FiberLight’s proposed middle mile project will ensure that the County has sufficient broadband access.
Currently South Florida, especially Homestead, Florida City, and the Keys, have very limited access to broadband networks. As the world and country becomes more technologically connected, the area of South Florida will continue to face many more challenges.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, I ask that FiberLight LLC's application is given your usual full and fair consideration. Again, thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL:jhs/wh

Cc: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB, Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Cc: Governor Charlie Crist
Office of Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Cc: Mike Miller
Chief Executive Officer
FiberLight LLC
3655 Brookside Parkway, Suite 550
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Cc: Monroe County Officials
The Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I would like to take this opportunity and express my strong support for the Knight Center of Digital Excellence Application submitted for Broadband Technology Opportunity Program funding of the "Connect Your Community" (CYC) project. This application has been submitted in partnership with the City of Miami's Elevate Miami program along with public and non-profit organizations from nine other communities across the nation.

We in South Florida are well aware of the critical role that broadband access and evolving online tools and applications will play in our community's future – in our children's education, the development of our economy, our access to health care, our public services and public engagement, democracy, and the quality of our lives.

BTOP funding of the CYC project will enable the City of Miami and its community partners to empower more than 6,000 currently unconnected Miami residents to become skilled, self-confident broadband Internet users.

The City of Miami and its community partners are proven, effective program managers with years of technology training experience and deep roots in the low-income communities they serve. BTOP funding of Connect Your Community will enable these outstanding partners to mount an all-out, neighbor-to-neighbor effort to close our broadband divide by engaging, training, equipping and supporting thousands of our disconnected fellow citizens to become broadband users over the next two years.

Once again, I would like to express my support for the for Broadband Technology Opportunity Program funding of the "Connect Your Community" (CYC) project. According to all applicable rules and regulations, I hope their application will be given all due consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL: gv
The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I would like to bring your attention to the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. According to the City of Miami, ELEVATE Miami would allow the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest citizens in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

ELEVATE Miami will help low-income residents transition from poverty to self-sufficiency by making broadband technology and other high-tech resources more readily accessible. They also recognize that broadband infrastructure without instruction will never fully capture the power of broadband connectivity or stimulate residential connectivity. To address this, ELEVATE Miami’s proposed public computing centers (e-Parks and e-Senior Centers) will provide access to broadband, training (broadband access and connectivity, computer usage fundamentals, Internet and web usage, accessing government benefits, financial fundamentals, better health through the internet, etc.), and affordable computer and connectivity packages for its participants in over 38 sites throughout Miami-Dade County.

The City of Miami states that the program’s pilot has proven so effective that there are already waiting lists for this free, transformative service. Also, since its inception, Microsoft, Comcast, AT&T, The Knight Foundation, and Citrix have all contributed resources to the program’s efforts. The City also states that ELEVATE Miami has received strong support from the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition, faith and community based organizations, and the workforce development and corporate sectors.
The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

August 5, 2009

Dear Secretary Locke:

I would like to bring your attention to the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. According to the City of Miami, ELEVATE Miami would allow the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest citizens in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

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In accordance with an application made by ELEVATE Miami, they have full and fair consideration to the application made by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the funds will surely benefit our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ilana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

[Redacted]
Cc: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230
Cc: City of Miami
August 5, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I would like to bring your attention to the City of Miami’s ELEVATE Miami proposal that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. According to the City of Miami, ELEVATE Miami would allow the City to leverage its infrastructure and produce a positive change for our neediest citizens in the fifth poorest city in the nation.

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full and fair consideration to the application made by IRLjah.

I trust in your expertise and commitment to carry out the requirements made by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the funds will surely benefit our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Teena Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

cc: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230
Cc: City of Miami
Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Strickling,

I write in support of Home Town Cable (HTC), LLC’s application for funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. HTC has partnered with the City of Port St. Lucie Emergency Operations Center and the Port St. Lucie Fire Department to create the first ever underground broadband network in the region, capable of withstanding hurricanes and severe tropical storms that have historically wiped out communications and hindered emergency rescue and response efforts.

This network would address a critical public safety need during and after severe storms in this region by providing emergency responders, fire and police stations, hospitals, shelters and more with reliable uninterrupted communication with one another; making emergency response efforts faster, more organized and more efficient.

As a resident of South Florida for 25 years, I understand the importance of investing in our infrastructure to provide emergency responders with the tools they need to better do their jobs following a hurricane or other natural disaster. With a reliable interconnected broadband safety network, we can better serve the residents of South Florida by ensuring those in need receive immediate assistance in the event of an emergency.

HTC operates one of the most advanced Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) networks in the country, and is well suited to help the City of Port St. Lucie build this revolutionary broadband communications network. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their application for funding under BTOP, and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Kindest regards,

Ron Klein
Member of Congress

Cc: U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke
Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communication and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Hebert C. Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Reference: OneBroward’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I write in support of OneBroward’s Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) grant application. I believe OneBroward’s business plan and network solution match the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) definition of “comprehensive communities” and is consistent with the intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As a recipient of this grant, OneBroward could leverage other public resources to develop a healthy and sustainable broadband infrastructure that can serve Broward County’s nearly two million residents and lower the cost of operations for critical community anchor institutions.

The expansion of broadband access proposed by OneBroward builds upon existing county infrastructures to support Broward’s university and community college system, its public schools and community healthcare facilities. It will improve the ability of local government and local law enforcement to respond to the citizens they serve while reducing current and future operating expenses.

This expanded infrastructure can also support Smart Grid activities in Broward County by providing fiber optic, microwave and WIMAX broadband alternatives that can be incorporated in the FPL network. These alternative sources should reduce network cost and increase reliability separate from solutions by existing network providers. Additionally, this infrastructure would allow efficient broadband interconnection for major energy consumers including the Memorial Hospital System, multiple county government offices and schools from kindergarten through graduate school.

OneBroward’s grant proposal will benefit Broward County and the State of Florida now and for generations to come. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their application and encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have.

Kindest regards,

Ron Klein  
Member of Congress
September 15, 2009

National Telecommunications & Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Application for Funding from Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's application for grant funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

The first phase of this project was implemented in 2007, and progress is now being made to expand a wireless coverage zone to provide broadband access to more underserved families in high poverty neighborhoods. This project is a working example of true inter-governmental cooperation.

The Palm Beach Broadband Coalition has also sponsored another project which will expand Palm Beach County's fiber network, having cities join to gain access to the Florida LambdaRail. This project will not only enable the City to have broadband technology, but it will also provide high speed connections to the City's government and public safety facilities. It is my understanding that sharing network resources among multiple levels of government will result in reduced costs, faster Internet service and opportunities for further collaboration.

Consistent with the ethics requirements of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am fully committed to the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's grant request and will wholeheartedly support its efforts to expand broadband Internet access to some of the most underserved residents.

Sincerely,

Ron Klein
Congressman
Florida, District 22
Anna Gomez  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230  

Dear Administrator Gomez:  

As a Member of Congress representing South Florida, I am pleased to support the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network’s (HITN) application for a grant under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (RIN 0660-ZA28).  

It is my understanding that HITN has proposed to create the Connect program which will be a national broadband infrastructure for the Community Based Organizations (CBO) that bridges the digital divides within the Hispanic communities of South Florida and help them to navigate life in the United States. It will address workforce development, economic, educational, and the health needs in the Hispanic community and has been doing so for the past 25 years. By applying for this grant, they hope to expand this pilot program nationwide, providing their services to all Hispanic communities, not just those of South Florida.  

I am committed to continue to provide any assistance I can to work with HITN for the good of the Hispanic community of South Florida. Therefore, within all applicable rules and regulations I ask for full and fair consideration of this application.

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Mario Díaz-Balart  
Member of Congress
May 10, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Agency  
United States Department of Commerce, Room 4812  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Glades Broadband Initiative

Dear Mr. Strickling:

On behalf of Palm Beach Broadband, please accept this letter in support of the Glades Broadband Initiative Project (GBI). GBI will provide broadband services to community anchor organizations such as education, medical, and public safety entities to meet the needs of the unserved and underserved Glades region.

Palm Beach Broadband is seeking funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program’s Comprehensive Community Infrastructure program. This project will serve an economically disadvantaged and geographically isolated area with a significant need for broadband services that is not adequately addressed by resources currently available within the region.

This project will reduce costs to local governments by interconnecting local, state and other governmental agencies; improve local healthcare by providing telemedicine opportunities; and improve the quality of the region’s workforce by providing enhanced educational resources.

The Glades region is currently experiencing extremely high unemployment rates. In Pahokee, unemployment jumped from 15 percent in June 2008 to 28 percent this year. In Belle Glade, unemployment rose from 14 percent to 26 percent and South Bay’s rate went from 25 percent to 42 percent, according to the Palm Beach County Workforce Alliance Office. Educating the workforce will go a long way in improving the conditions in this community. I hope you will give Palm Beach Broadband’s application for funding your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Aleece L. Hastings  
Member of Congress