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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0517**

November 13, 2009

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
US Department Of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to reiterate my strong support for the Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast proposal by the University Corporation at Monterey Bay to expand broadband infrastructure in my predominantly rural Central California district.

Out of an initial 179 California proposals submitted to NTIA and RUS for Broadband and Public Computing Facilities made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Governor Schwarzenegger recommended this proposal as one of his priority projects.

This project will connect the three disparate telecommunications networks in the three counties in my district -- Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito -- via a Middle Mile infrastructure deployment. Expanding broadband service to this geographically challenging area -- a 120 coastline without cell service, rugged mountain terrain, and very rural isolated communities -- will:

- o spur economic development and empower the region's businesses to retain workers
- o enable government agencies to realize significant savings in their daily operations
- o facilitate public safety communications
- o support Telehealth and electronic medical records and services
- o provide IT training opportunities for unemployed and underemployed adults
- o enable our \$3 billion agriculture industry to reach national and global markets
- o improve computer literacy and computer access for at-risk youth

In light of the strong recommendation provided by the Governor, I urge NTIA to give this project the very favorable consideration it deserves on its merits. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Farr".

SAM FARR  
Member of Congress

SF/im