

SAM FARR
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1221 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0517
(202) 225-2861

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOMELAND SECURITY
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIC CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND
TOURISM CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

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

100 WEST ALISAL
SALINAS, CA 93901
(831) 424-2229
701 OCEAN STREET
ROOM 318
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 429-1976
www.farr.house.gov

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

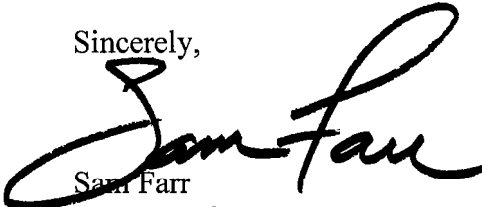
Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to draw you attention to a remarkable effort to access federal stimulus dollars to help fund the expansion of Broadband connectivity in my predominantly rural Central California district.

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium (Consortium) is a coalition of public and private entities from local, state, and federal government, economic development, public safety, higher education, industry, and others. The broad reach of this effort in the Monterey Bay region is truly remarkable. The Consortium's long term goal is the overall improvement of broadband and other data access for the tri-county region – a connected Central Coast. Its near term efforts are focused on acquiring federal stimulus dollars to help pay for these broadband infrastructure improvements. In particular, the Consortium is seeking funding to complete a fiber optic backbone along the Highway One and Highway 101 corridors from northern Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties to the southern Monterey County line. Many of the communities that would be served by this effort are either predominantly latino farm towns or remote mountainous areas with poor access to reliable emergency communication.

The Consortium has applied for funding in a public private partnership with Cruzio and the City of Watsonville made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help fund the expansion of broadband infrastructure. In light of the importance of this effort to the future economic development and public safety in my district, I urge that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration give this application all due consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sam Farr
Member of Congress