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WILLIAM W. MONNING
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March 22, 2010

Honorable Secretary Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to express my support for the Central Coast Broadband Consortium's grant application to the National Telecommunications Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to fund their project to connect the Central Coast's telecommunications networks.

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC) is a broad based alliance of community members and local government agencies that are working together in order to develop a plan that will provide equitable broadband access to the residents of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. More than 70 participants were involved in the planning process over the past year to ensure that the CCBC's plan encompasses the needs of businesses, schools, public agencies, and citizens throughout the Central Coast region.

If you are not familiar with the Central Coast of California, its geography is extremely diverse and ranges from rugged coastline, like that of Big Sur, to agricultural fields, like those adjacent to the Pajaro River, to extremely mountainous, in-land terrain, like the Santa Cruz Mountains. This topography poses challenges when attempting to provide adequate broadband service to the residents of this area and the CCBC's proposed Broadband Grid would connect the region's gaps in telecommunication, allowing for increased economic development, better communication for public safety agencies, and access to online resources for research and education.

Since the CCBC is involved with local government agencies in all three counties, they are in a unique position to ensure that the broadband connectivity needs of Central Coast residents are met and I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Central Coast Broadband Consortium's grant application.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact An McDowell, in my Monterey District Office, at (831) 649-2832.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William W. Monning".

WILLIAM W. MONNING
Assemblymember, 27th District
WWM:am