



TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE

William B. Emmons, III, Chairman
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

REGIONAL COMMISSION

April 13, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U.S. Department of Commerce Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: East Central Vermont Community FiberNet BTOP Application

On behalf of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, I am pleased to support East Central Vermont Community FiberNet (ECFibernet) BTOP application for funding for their regional fiber to the home broadband deployment project.

In our work in regional planning with our 30 member towns, we encourage sustainable development that is village centered and also offers innovative solutions to commuting across our rural state. Many of our smaller villages and rural areas do not have high-speed broadband options for its residents and the larger internet providers' future plans for expansion are limited or progressing very slowly. ECFibernet's mission of creating a network combining financial sustainability, community ownership, and state-of-the-art technology complements our regional planning goals of village centered services and innovative tools that are accessible to our rural areas and residents.

The small businesses that are typical of our area and the rest of Vermont and New Hampshire are increasingly reliant on high-speed communications to maintain or improve their competitive position. Our region is part of the larger bi-state Upper Valley area which includes Dartmouth College and the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. These institutions have encouraged a cluster of related businesses, individuals and technologies across our region but many of these groups lack the broadband infrastructure to fully realize their potential. Extending high-speed broadband access to all our citizens will enable them to participate fully in the sustainable economy of the future.

TRORC supports this work, and I encourage the BTOP to fully fund the application as presented.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director

3117 Rose Hill, The King Farm, Woodstock, VT 05091
802.457.3188, fax: 802.457.4728, www.trorc.org