



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration

Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY 11 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter regarding the broadband initiatives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), and specifically correspondence you received from Mr. Richard Rockman, Jr. of Tri-County Wireless, Inc. As you know, Section 6001 of the Recovery Act requires the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission, to establish the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The statute sets forth several priorities, including accelerating broadband deployment in both unserved and underserved areas, and ensuring that strategic institutions that are likely to create jobs or provide significant public benefits have broadband connections.

On March 12, 2009, NTIA released a *Request for Information* (RFI) that seeks public comment on a wide range of issues that will inform NTIA's decisionmaking as it develops its BTOP grant program. Comments in response to the RFI were due to NTIA by April 13, 2009, and all public comments are publicly available at the BTOP website at www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants.

NTIA will make broadband grant funds available through a competitive process and expects to release its initial grant guidelines early this summer, after which eligible entities will be able to apply for broadband stimulus funds. NTIA also will be hosting grant workshops to encourage and facilitate entities seeking to apply for grants. NTIA is moving expeditiously to implement this Program to ensure that Recovery Funds are made available as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for forwarding this correspondence, which will be made part of the public record. If I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (202) 482-1551.

Sincerely,

James V. Wasilewski

Director

Office of Congressional Affairs

DEBBIE STABENOW
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
BUDGET
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE

United States Senate

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave Nw
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Rick Rockman Jr.

I am writing . . .

. . . on behalf of my constituent, Rick Rockman Jr., who contacted me regarding his difficulty in reaching the appropriate person at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

I have enclosed background materials pertinent to the situation and would request that you review the information. I would appreciate being advised of your findings.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Chris Hennessy in my Flint-Saginaw Bay office at 810-720-4172. Any written materials can be sent to 432 N. Saginaw St Suite 301, Flint, MI 48502 or by fax at 810-720-4178.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

DS:ch

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March 18, 2009

Senator Debbie Stabenow
432 N. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48532

Dear Senator Stabenow,

Tri-County Wireless, Inc. is a SDVOSB sub-chapter S corporation with a USMC veteran as the majority stockholder and company President. As a broadband internet provider to the cities, towns and rural populace in and around Fenton, Michigan, we are requesting your assistance to apply for grant monies as provided for under the recent Federal Government stimulus package.

Following the standard protocol of seeking information and contact with the NTIA has been frustrating to this point. Both corporately and personally we have emailed bbrown@ntia.doc.gov and phoned their Washington, DC number at (202) 482-4374 numerous times looking for direction. Our company understands that there are a considerable number of candidates applying for State and Federal stimulus grants and low interest loans but when we receive no response by phone or email it seems to demand a different approach. Therefore, please consider this a formal request for Senator Debbie Stabenow's involvement to assist us going forward in this process.

Tri-County Wireless is a local company which provides high-speed internet access and VOIP phone access to residential and commercial customers within a 32 mile radius of our home office and broadband base of operations located at 240 N. Fenway Drive in Fenton, Michigan. This radius covers portions of three (3) counties (Genesee, Livingston, and Oakland) and includes the cities and townships located in the same area. We have been a certified wireless service provider for over five years.

With this experience we are poised as a broadband carrier to reach out to the underserved rural communities and residences in these three connected counties and provide access to VOIP land line phones and the worldwide web through high-speed internet. *Tri-County Wireless*' buildout plan is simple by design, smooth in transition, and will be complete in execution. Our infrastructure at this time includes 16 tower locations and three different modes of wireless reception (2.4ghz, 900ghz, and 5.7ghz) to reach and supply bandwidth for potential customers. With the implementation of a 2-phase business plan which includes the installation and erection of four (4) primary towers (location and height being primary considerations) and supporting signal equipment, *Tri-County Wireless* would be able to construct an overhead broadband network which serves up to 15,000 additional rural residents within our coverage area. In addition to making service available to previously unreachable homes and businesses, this expanded wireless network has the potential to produce up to 120 new jobs with longtime employment security.

We are asking for Senator Stabenow to assist the procurement of approximately \$1.8 million in grant funds to facilitate this area wide wireless network and its ensuing buildout. We would like the opportunity to be an American small business success story — a flagship endeavor which will bring business, jobs and confidence back to Michigan.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard Rockman, Jr."

Richard Rockman, Jr.
President, Tri-County Wireless, Inc.