



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

MAY 19 2009

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

Thank you for your letter regarding the broadband initiatives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). As you know, Section 6001 of the Recovery Act requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 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.

I appreciate the thoughtful comments you provide in your letter. 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, including the appropriate role of States in identifying priorities and selecting projects for funding. Your comments are directly relevant to the issues addressed in the RFI.

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

In closing, I give you my personal assurance that your thoughtful views on this matter will be made part of the public record. They are greatly appreciated and will receive serious consideration as NTIA implements this important program. If I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me or Laurence Atlas, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, at (202) 482-1830.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Gomez
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Communications and Information