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

MAY 18 2009

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Vice Chairman Cochran:

Pursuant to Section 6001(c)(4) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Pub. L. No. 111-5, I am pleased to provide you with the first quarterly status report on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). In light of the BTOP's nascence, this report focuses on the initial procedural and administrative steps taken by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to launch BTOP in accordance with the Recovery Act's requirements. In addition to a tentative timeline, this report sets forth NTIA's key activities over the past 90 days aimed at ensuring a prompt and effective implementation of the grant program: program kickoff in cooperation with other Federal agencies and the States; public outreach and participation; and enhancing transparency and accountability.

I look forward to keeping you informed as NTIA implements this important program. If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me or James Wasilewski, NTIA's Congressional Affairs Director, on (202) 482-1551.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Gomez
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Communications and Information

Enclosure