

November 30, 2009

Broadband Initiatives Program /
Rural Utilities Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Stop 1599
Washington, DC 20250

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB Room 4887
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Joint Request for Information

To Whom it May Concern:

The original legislation authorizing funds for these two programs specified non-profit agencies, municipalities and states as the beneficiaries of these funds.

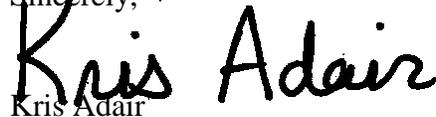
For-profit corporations were only allowed to participate after the determination was made that there were not likely to be enough qualified applicants that met congresses original guidelines.

With \$28 Billion in applications in the first round, we believe that the country would be best served by going back to congress's original intent.

First priority should be given to funding non-profits, municipalities and other government entities. For-profit projects should only be funded after funding has been provided to all of the projects that qualify as non-profit or government entities.

It is distressing that large corporate entities focused on the bottom line may receive millions in funding at the expense of non-profits like us that have been providing free broadband services to low income families for almost 5 years.

Sincerely,



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