

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Air Advantage, LLC

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Michigan's Thumb Area Broadband Grant

Submitter: SpeedNet, LLC

Comment: SpeedNet, LLC, a Michigan financed, owned and operated company offers 3.0 Mbps x 384 Kbps wireless broadband service to thousands of residential and commercial customers as the incumbent broadband ISP throughout a majority of the proposed application area.

In October of 2005, SpeedNet acquired the 2.5 GHz – 2.7 GHz BRS/EBS spectrum from Puvalowski Entertainment. In addition to the the Puvalowski acquisition, SpeedNet has invested nearly \$17,000,000.00 to develop its existing operation. SpeedNet has the opportunity to provide last mile service with an advertised broadband connection of 3.0 Mbps x 384 Kbps at a rate of \$34.95/month in all of the proposed application area covering Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties.

These broadband delivery methods are provisioned by SpeedNet through a matrix of company financed, built, managed, and maintained server technologies, co-located cell tower attachments, billing system, licensed backhaul paths, and a team of twenty employees based in Saginaw Michigan.

This privately funded investment was financed by Michigan natives John Ogren and Robert Liggett. These two partners continue to own and operate the company today. If funded, Air Advantage LLC would use federal stimulus funds to not only damage the private investments made by these individuals but also utilize stimulus dollars to build technology in areas currently served by SpeedNet and other broadband competitors.

Submitter: Charter Communications

Comment: Charter Communications ('Charter'), a broadband service provider, has invested capital to provide a full range of Broadband services, including High Speed Internet services, in this service area. The applicant's request in the proposed under-served service area would create an overlap in Charter's service area. Charter's response includes the necessary information to validate the overlapping condition as a result of this applicant's request.

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: CenturyLink is submitting data that shows the application's proposed service area is not underserved or unserved, under program guidelines. Accordingly, the application must be denied as ineligible. With limited funding and a large pool of applications, program grants and loans must be directed only to areas that are truly underserved or unserved, as stipulated in the program guidelines.

CenturyLink can certify that its affiliates currently offer broadband service in some or all of the applicant's proposed service areas. Attached is a state map that is a representative sample of areas where the application overlaps our existing broadband deployment. CenturyLink also provides data showing broadband availability in our local telephone exchanges within the proposed service areas. We will provide additional information on request if that will further assist the agency's review.

This data is not exhaustive; the application may include other areas also currently served with broadband by other providers, which should be considered in the assessment of the application. Our data combined with that of other broadband providers would likely show further duplication and overlap of broadband services in the proposed service areas.