



STATE OF MAINE
CONNECTME AUTHORITY
3RD FLR. CROSS STATE OFFICE BUILDING
78 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0078

JEAN WILSON
CHAIR

GREG McNEAL
DICK THOMPSON
RALPH JOHNSON
THOMAS L. WELCH
AUTHORITY MEMBERS

January 1, 2014

Michael Dame
Yuki Miyamoto
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Ste. 4897
Washington, DC 20230

Ebony Simmons
100 Bureau Drive, MS 1650
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1650

Dear Madams and Sir:

As you are aware, the ConnectME Authority has been working closely with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to transfer Maine's State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) from MEMA to the ConnectME Authority. At the January ConnectME Authority Meeting, MEMA presented their support for this transfer and the ConnectME Authority Board voted to approve the transfer.

In 2006, the Maine state Legislature created the ConnectME Authority to develop and carry out Maine's broadband strategy by identifying unserved areas of the state; developing proposals for broadband expansion projects, demonstration projects and other initiatives; administering the process for selecting specific broadband projects; identifying and securing federal funding sources for broadband or wireless deployment or education; identifying opportunities among providers, state and local governmental entities, including coordination with the statewide emergency radio network.

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec9204.html>

The ConnectME Authority works closely with all broadband initiatives in the State of Maine and initiatives on the federal level. In 2010, the ConnectME Authority was awarded NTIA funding that totaled \$6,339,367 of which \$4,973,492 was federal funds and \$1,365,875 match, to administer the State Broadband Data Development grant. To that end,

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PHILLIP LINDLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WWW.MAINE.GOV/CONNECTME/

PHONE: (207) 624-9970
MOBILE: (207) 441-0498

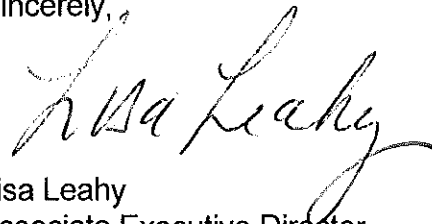
we have collected broadband infrastructure data quarterly for four years that in turn will benefit the State and Local Implementation Grant Program.

The ConnectME Authority proposes to provide grant management and oversight for Maine's State and Local Implementation Grant Program. The ConnectME Authority will provide day to day administration, contractual obligations, vendor contact, invoicing, payment, data gathering, reporting, federal interaction and oversight. MEMA will be the conduit for public safety stakeholder outreach. ConnectME Authority staff will work closely with the SWIC in coordinating the Maine Interoperable Communications Committee, leading the development and updating of public safety wireless broadband strategies and their inclusion in the State Communications Interoperability Plan, and will coordinate and organize public outreach and education sessions to bring County, Local, other partners and interoperable communications projects into the consultation process. The date of transfer to the ConnectME Authority is January 1, 2014.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Leahy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Leahy
Associate Executive Director