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To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Cc: allanfuller@ftir.com
Subject: Broadband for Benton Maine
Date: Thursday, June 04, 2015 5:48:34 PM
Attachments: [FCC letter Benton.pdf](#)

Hello:

I am a Selectman for the Town of Benton (Maine)...

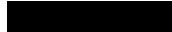
Please view my attached letter that I submitted to the FCC over a year ago regarding rural broadband...

The Town of Benton is interested in pursuing any and all means to increase broadband accessibility to our citizens...

We, as a Town, want to stay "in the loop" regarding any and all opportunities that exist for rural communities such as Benton, Maine...

Please feel free to contact me with any questions...

Antoine Morin
Benton Selectman



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March 7, 2014

**Letter – Expression of Interest
VIA ECFS**

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express the **Town of Benton’s** (Maine) interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting. While we do not have a specific project to propose, we take this opportunity to document Benton’s need for high-speed Internet service. We respectfully ask the Federal Communications Commission to consider our area’s need when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

Background

Benton is a bedroom community with a number of rural residents that lack high-speed Internet service. Like many rural Maine towns, Benton is transitioning into the 21st Century, having seen a number of manufacturing jobs leave the area. Broadband is currently available to some, but not all residents. Enabling all residents access to reasonably priced high-speed Internet services would go a long way to making Benton competitive with similar New England communities.

Benton is a [town](#) in [Kennebec County, Maine](#). It was formed in 1842, as a subdivision of the Town of Clinton. As of the [census](#)^[2] of 2010, there were 2,732 people, 1,104 households, and 792 families residing in the town. The town has a total area of 29.06 square miles, of which, 28.41 square miles of it is land and 0.65 square miles is water.

Geographic Territory

Benton has mainly rural farmland with small clusters of residential settings dispersed along the various roads and streets that lead to them. A mix of fiber to the home along with strategically placed Wi-Fi, would best serve our community.

The project will target the following census tracts:

230110220001011

230110220001037
230110220001018

Proposed technology

Premium Choice Broadband will be working with the Town of Benton, Maine to cover the entire town with high speed internet using both fiber optic and Wifi technology to deliver speeds of at least 5Mbps to the end user. Premium Choice Broadband has been in business since 2008 and has a proven history of using wireless and fiber technology. Premium Choice Broadband successfully completed a fiber to the home service project in Abbot, Maine approximately 1 year ago and currently operates from 50 tower locations across the state with wireless service. The Town of Benton and Premium Choice Broadband believe that a fiber to the home service in Benton along with strategic Wi-Fi access, would be beneficial to consumers, businesses and public organizations as well as being the wave of the future.

Existing Providers

I have listed a link that provides a snapshot of existing providers. Benton’s zipcode is 04901, but due to it’s rural nature, Benton does not come up as a unique municipality. The link below is from our neighbor (Albion) whose access to high-speed Internet is very similar to Benton:

<http://broadbandnow.com/Maine/Albion?zip=04910>

Local or Tribal Government Participation

The Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) has experience assisting area municipalities with federal rural initiatives similar to the one being proposed by the FCC. Benton is an active member of KVCOG and is prepared to work with KVCOG to successfully implement all FCC guidelines.

List of Anchor Institutions

Benton is home to **Benton Elementary**. This school serves nearly 700 1st-6th grade students. Benton Elementary has taken many positive steps to integrate technology into the curriculum over the years. The State of Maine provides laptops for all Middle School students while at school, under an initiative started by then Governor Angus King, who is currently serving Maine as a US Senator. Unfortunately, many students go home with laptops, and are unable to access the Internet to continue their research and learning at home.

The Benton Town Office serves as the municipal nerve center for Benton. High-speed Internet via fiber or Wi-Fi would allow residents access to information and “Apps” to conduct all applicable business while at the Town Office, thus making the citizen-government experience more efficient and precise.

Benton is also home to a number of canoe/kayak /walking trails. Bringing Wi-Fi access to these trails would increase use of the trails and provide for educational opportunities, while boosting our local economy.

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decisions about the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Experiments. We commend the FCC in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Antoine Morin
Selectman
Town of Benton, Maine