Applicant Name: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments/Northern Michigan Broadband Cooperative

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 Presque Isle County.

In January of 2001, SpeedNet acquired the 2.5 GHz – 2.7 GHz spectrum in NE Michigan. SpeedNet has the opportunity to provide last mile service to over 90% of the estimated 5,204 households in the proposed application map submitted by Northeast MI BB Cooperative.

SpeedNet provides licensed wireless broadband service with investments in both a fixed wireless DOCSIS 2.0 technology purchased from Arris, and an OFDM (WiMAX) technology purchased from Motorola. 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, the NE Michigan BB Cooperative 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 that cannot be viewed as unserved or underserved by the definitions in the NOFA.
Submitter: AT&T

Comment: AT&T is providing data about its wireline and mobile broadband footprint to assist in determining whether the applicant's proposed service area, which may be part of a larger application and project, satisfies the unserved and underserved eligibility requirements. Additional information regarding other broadband service providers' currently operating in the service area may be needed in order to make a reasonable analysis or a conclusive determination.

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 and un-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.