Applicant Name: First Step Internet, LLC

Public Notice Submissions

-----Service Area: WestTwin-Teakean

Submitter: TDS Telecom

Comment: TDS Telecom offers 3Mbps broadband service within the applicants proposed service area and provides broadband service to customers pursuant to the NOFA definitions.

-----Service Area: Troy-McGeary

Submitter: TDS Telecom

Comment: TDS Telecom offers 3Mbps broadband service within the applicants proposed service area and provides broadband service to customers pursuant to the NOFA definitions.

-----Service Area: 5 County

Submitter: Time Warner Cable

Comment: As shown in the attached map and exhibit, TWC currently provides broadband Internet access service in the Proposed Funded Service Area. In addition, we advertise service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout this service area. We pass over 50% of households, and either (1) have actual broadband subscribership of over 40% of the households in these census blocks or (2) the combined broadband subscribership of the wireline broadband providers (including TWC) in these census blocks is reasonably likely to exceed 40%. Therefore, that portion of the proposed funded service area that overlaps Respondent’s service area reflected in this response is neither “unserved” or “underserved.”
-----Service Area:  WestTwin-Troy

Submitter:  TDS Telecom

Comment:  TDS Telecom offers 3Mbps broadband service within the applicants proposed service area and provides broadband service to customers pursuant to the NOFA definitions.

-----Service Area:  LewistonHill-Winchester

Submitter:  Qwest

Comment:  As authorized by the BIP and BTOP Notice of Funds Availability and the Public Notice associated with the publication of BIP and BTOP broadband infrastructure project funding applications found on the BroadbandUSA.gov website, Qwest responds with broadband service data to the application of First Step Internet, LLC for funding for an area represented as “underserved” that is located, in whole or in part, in Qwest’s broadband service area.

-----Service Area:  McGeary-Gilbert

Submitter:  Suddenlink Communications

Comment:  This response conclusively demonstrates that Suddenlink and its competitors already offer robust broadband service within the mapped area of the applicant’s proposed funded service area and that this mapped area is neither unserved nor underserved. Additional information is provided in the uploaded document, including (1) sample marketing material; (2) a guide on how to read the data we entered in the “Existing Broadband Subscribers” section of this response; (3) a summary of the vendor and methodology used for estimating competitive-service subscribers in the mapped area; (4) Suddenlink contact information, should one or more federal agencies have questions or require additional information; and (5) a summary of concerns with the response process and the limitations that process has placed on our ability to provide NTIA/RUS with relevant, timely data.