



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
MIKE BEEBE  
GOVERNOR

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce (NTIA)  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The State of Arkansas recognizes the importance of broadband Internet access for all of its citizens. This issue is of great importance to my administration and the Arkansas legislature.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dedicated \$7.2 billion to accelerate broadband deployment in areas of the country that have been without a high-speed infrastructure. The Commerce Department's National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) is currently seeking applications for the State Broadband Data Program. This competitive grant program will fund mapping systems to gather data at the address level on broadband availability, technology speed, infrastructure, and average revenue per user across the project area.

The Notice of Funding Availability for the aforementioned program specified that the State of Arkansas must designate an organization to apply for this funding on behalf of the State. During my tenure as Governor of Arkansas, we have created and funded a private, nonprofit organization, Connect Arkansas, to help ensure the creation of a competitive broadband infrastructure that will improve the lives of our citizens and advance the economic prospects of our State.

I hereby designate Connect Arkansas as the organization authorized to apply, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, for the aforementioned grant funds for the State Broadband Data Program, to the extent required by the laws, rules, and regulations governing said grant program. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

Mike Beebe

MB:jb