



STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

August 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Governor of Arkansas, I recognize the vital importance of broadband Internet access for all of our citizens. As you know, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has dedicated \$7.2 billion for accelerating broadband deployment to areas of the country without high-speed infrastructure. I understand that the Commerce Department's National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) is currently seeking applications for Sustainable Adoption and Public Access. These competitive grants will go toward funding innovative concepts that help drive the widespread adoption of broadband and ensure that our citizens have points of public access.

During my tenure as Governor, we have created and funded a private nonprofit entity, Connect Arkansas, which brings together relevant participants within our State. One of my highest chief objectives for Connect Arkansas is to collaborate and coordinate with other organizations, in both the public and private sectors, to ensure that all of our citizens realize the numerous benefits resulting from the widespread use of broadband services.

Connect Arkansas's body of work, as evidenced in its request for funding, represents a coordinated and unified application on behalf of the State, as per my direction. Please be assured that any funding it receives will be monitored by my office, and the activities proposed will be coordinated, so that we can yield the greatest possible benefit for the citizens of Arkansas. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

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

Mike Beebe

MB:jb