



# BLACKFEET NATION

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Peter "Rusty" Tatsey, Vice-Chairman  
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## BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

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Paul McEvers  
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May 17, 2010

Mr. Larry Strickling  
Administrator  
National telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Recommendations for Broadband American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Applications for Round Two.

Dear Mr. Strickling,

Thank you for allowing the Blackfeet Tribe to comment on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) broadband round two applications pending before your agency.

The seven Reservations in Montana have formed the Montana Inter-tribal Telecommunications Consortium in partnership with the Native American Development Corporation by resolution to submit an application for funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity. These large, land based Montana Reservations average over 50% unemployment, located in remote rural areas, and are historically unserved and underserved.

This partnership will provide middle mile Broadband network to bring affordable and effective last mile opportunities to the Reservations in Montana which has few middle mile access points for reservations. Each Reservation will share in ownership of the planned middle mile network, which addresses affordability, access and the opportunity for economic development. Key anchor institutions, such as the Indian Health clinics, which provides critical services to the Reservation population are very supportive of this application's ability to bring information and communication services for health care. In addition the Montana Reservations will be able to leverage with partners Broadband services on the reservation that meet our economic goals and are of the quality that is required.

The Montana Inter-Tribal Telecommunications Consortium will serve our reservation which is located in Montana with a population of approximately 24,000 and the Land Base is 1.5 Million Acres. The Blackfeet Tribe highly recommends the Montana Inter-tribal Telecommunications project submitted by the Native American Development Corporation (grant #7638).

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully,



Willie A. Sharp, Jr.  
Chairman, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council  
P.O. Box 850  
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Cc: Leonard Smith, NADC