

Fort Belknap Indian Community



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Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre
Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

May 24, 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 Fort Belknap Indian Community 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.

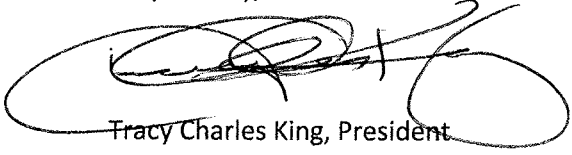
This partnership will provide middle mile Broadband network to bring affordable and effective last mile opportunities to the Reservations in Montana, which has few middle mile access points for reservations. Each Reservation will share in ownership of the planned middle mile network, which addresses 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 northcentral Montana with a population of 3400 and is 675,000 square miles. The Fort Belknap Indian

Community 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Charles King', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Tracy Charles King, President

Cc: Leonard Smith, NADC