

Native Village of Kotzebue Kotzebue IRA

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Knowledge of Language

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, Broadband for the American Arctic
Proposal, EasyGrants ID # 4581

Knowledge of Family Traditions

Sharing

Dear Secretary Locke:

Humility

I am writing in response to NTIA's request for comments from Native American tribes regarding pending applications for Recovery Act funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The Native Village of Kotzebue is the federally-recognized tribe serving the Kotzebue Community. (census block groups 021800002001 and 021800002002).

Respect for Others

Love for Children

Cooperation

Hard Work

We strongly support the Arctic Cable Company's Broadband for the American Arctic (BFAA) project, for the following reasons:

Respect for Elders

- BFAA will replace slow, unreliable satellite links with fiber optic cable, immediately and dramatically improving all communications. This will ensure that service in our community meets the goals of the FCC's new National Broadband Plan.

Respect for Nature

Avoid Conflict

Family Roles

- Our community needs the improvements in distance education that BFAA will bring. We understand that Arctic Cable Company is partnering with the University of Alaska to directly serve the University's Northwest Campus in Nome. With this connection, our indigenous people can take advantage of resources world-wide while remaining in their community.

Humor

Spirituality

Domestic Skills

Hunter Success

- Public safety relies on communications. In our remote area, the ability to communicate quickly and reliably is a matter of life and death.
- Fiber optic connectivity will finally offer high-speed broadband capabilities required to deliver critical telemedicine and economic development to our rural communities currently served only by inadequate satellite services.
- We understand that BFAA has received all state and federal permits and approvals. We have been consulted on environmental issues and approve of the project approach.

Responsibility to Tribe

- The project is designed to support the collection of real-time oceanic, fisheries, and climate data. As a community on the front lines of climate change effects, we look forward to a dramatic improvement in these research capabilities.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter of critical importance to our community.

This letter of support also strongly recommends the Northwest Arctic Borough Project 4927 as another high priority for funding in Alaska. These two in particular will impact us directly in a positive way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda C. Joule". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Linda C. Joule
Executive Director

cc: Lawrence Strickling, NTIA
Ian Martinez, NTIA