Smith River Rancheria

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August 4, 2009

Mr. Scott Joachim, General Manager
Redwood Telephone, LLC
27 Bear River Dr.
Loleta, CA 95551

Dear Mr. Joachim,

On behalf of Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Redwood Telephone's planned installation of broadband telecommunications under BTOP encompassing Humboldt and Del Note Counties.

The North Coast region of California, including Humboldt, Del Norte Counties and Curry County, Oregon lacks comprehensive high-speed interconnections to its key anchor institutions in the health, education, public safety, and government segments. The region as a whole lacks sufficient redundant connection for access to the internet as it relies on a single connection to the South for internet access. Further, existing and incumbent services are limited and expensive. Fixed wireless is very expensive in access and installation costs and is severely limited in its available bandwidth.

Our region is in need of economic development, educational expansion, vocational services, jobs and economic mobility. Broadband technology can bring the region a plethora of services that could be accessed online and are currently unfeasible. For example, some advanced broadband services include telemedicine, distance learning, two-way video conferencing, and managed services, etc. Upon review of your business plan and the scope of work, we endorse this comprehensive and insightful application for middle and last-mile broadband services.

The Smith River Rancheria strongly supports Redwood Telephone's application for funding under the USDA BIP or Department of Commerce BTOP programs.

Sincerely,

Kara Brundin Miller
Tribal Chair

Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni
Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong