



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230-0002

RE: Official endorsement of the "Northern California Open Community Fiber Network"

Dear Mr. Strickling,

The Yurok Tribe, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, would like to give its official endorsement for the Northern California Open Community Fiber Network project (Easygrants ID: 7229 by Redwood Telephone, LLC).

The Yurok Reservation covers a vast area in the coastal region of Northern California. Due to its remote location it has historically been left behind with regards to Electrical and Telecommunication resources. At this time there are no Internet Service providers providing last mile broadband service to the residents of the Reservation and many residents still have yet to obtain even normal telephone service due to the extreme lack of infrastructure.

The Yurok Tribe recognizes that a high percentage of other Native American Reservations are prone to the same types of infrastructural disadvantages. It is due to this fact that we are in complete support of any application which seeks to bring broadband recourses to any and all Native American lands.

As the Yurok Reservation lies on the borderline between Southern Del Norte and Northern Humboldt counties, it has found itself the poster child for the "Digital Divide". To the north lies high speed infrastructure in Crescent City, CA. To the south there is high speed infrastructure in Eureka, CA. And last to the east there is high speed infrastructure available in Somes Bar, CA. We believe that if the Northern California Open Community Fiber Network is not funded these links will never reach the reservation via private funding due to the extreme costs associated with the network build out.

We would like to close by noting that the educational and emergency service capabilities that would be provided by the Northern California Open Community Fiber Network would allow many of our residents to lead safer, more educated lives which will ultimately bring about a higher standard of living for the thousands of residents both tribal and non tribal of our region.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. O'Rourke
Yurok Tribal Chairman