



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2010

Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling
U.S. Department of Commerce/NTIA
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 4898 B
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Sec. Strickling:

As Governor of Mississippi, I formed the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF) in February of 2009 to offer me counsel on the options for expanding broadband access to the citizens of the state. The MBTF has spent many hours reviewing applications submitted in Round 2 of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) by applicants and entities that currently offer, or wish to offer, broadband access in our state.

When the applicant database was posted online, my office sent a self-appraisal form to every applicant listing Mississippi as their coverage area. We formed a panel of subject matter experts, ranging from healthcare and economic development to governmental relations and education, to review these self-appraisals. The panel delivered their expert opinions on the matter and the MBTF gave me counsel accordingly.

The result of these efforts lead me to believe that the application submitted by my office on March 26, 2010 will best serve our state in increasing broadband access and availability to unserved and underserved areas. I highly recommend the application submitted by the Executive Office of the State of Mississippi for Round 2 funding under BTOP.

Thank you for your continued efforts to increase broadband access and availability in our state. I will continue to work with the MBTF to ensure Mississippi benefits from this opportunity. Should you have any further questions, please contact Nicole Stofer in my office at 601-359-3766.

Sincerely,


Haley Barbour