



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Leticia Van de Putte, R. Ph.

District 26

April 2, 2009

Ms. Anna Gomez
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)
U.S. Department of Commerce / NTIA
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Gomez,

As a local elected official from Texas and former President of the National Council of State Legislatures, I write to you to express my support for the quick and efficient dispersal of the over \$7 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. I am a long-time advocate for the benefits of broadband usage and believe that mapping and subsequent deployment of this technology infrastructure will jump start our sagging economy through economic and educational empowerment of our people.

Getting stimulus money into the hands of state and local elected officials as soon as possible will enable us to begin proper and fair deployment of this necessary technology. While broadband may have once been a luxury, it is no longer and we must provide access to any and all communities, especially those that currently do not have these opportunities.

Every day that goes by is an opportunity missed to train the workforce of tomorrow, create jobs, and turn this economy around. Health care and education are two of the most important needs of families throughout our nation. Broadband creates large efficiencies of service in these areas by enabling easy and efficient access to information and decreasing costs that between consumers and providers. By creating and expanding these efficiencies throughout the marketplace, our consumers and businesses will realize additional savings – money that can be put back in the economy.

I encourage the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) to distribute the stimulus money as soon as possible. However, the NTIA must consider the

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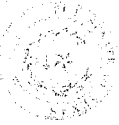
importance in broadband mapping. Without a sustainable and transparent mapping process, we will be unable to identify unserved areas that do not have access to broadband at all. This should be our priority as we look to build this technology system throughout our nation. While there is money set aside for these functions, as a result of broadband mapping legislation in the last Congress, we must rely on our state and local officials to lead the charge in identifying these areas and communities as well as our partners to maximize effectiveness of the stimulus money.

A functioning and active broadband infrastructure will take time to build and every day that the money is not sent to our state officials, we miss an opportunity to create jobs, provide needed social services to our constituents, and halt our nation's downward economic trend. We must work together to change the fortunes of Americans. The broadband stimulus money will allow us to create this long-term solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leticia Van de Putte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leticia Van de Putte, R. Ph.
Texas State Senator, District 26



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