



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: "Northern California Open Community Fiber Network" (ID# 7299) Project;
Endorsement**

Dear Mr. Strickling,

The Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, a federally recognized Indian tribe, thanks you for the opportunity to comment on Broadband technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP") projects that affect tribal lands, and specifically those lands or areas that are important to the Tribe. The Tribe highly recommends and endorses the Northern California Open Community Fiber Network (Easygrants ID: 7299; Applicant: Redwood Telephone L.L.C.; Project Type: CCI) project.

As our Tribal Lands and the neighboring communities grow, so do our needs for better and more reliant broadband communications. Through this development we are able to establish sustainable economic development business model that will provide advanced broadband communications for our tribe, tribal government partners, and the region at-large.

The tribe recommends the application by Redwood Telephone L.L.C. to provide middle and last mile broadband services. In particular, the Tribe views as critical the ability to provide route redundancy to our community by bridging the key middle mile connections in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and eleven (11) federally recognized tribal lands; and in the process providing broadband access to key community anchor institutions and private enterprise along U.S. Highway 101 and S.H. 96. Funded, the Tribe would be able to connect a number of its buildings and homes in areas that are un-served or underserved. The Tribe also intends to take advantage of connections with other Tribes for the provisions of distance learning services and programs.

It is for these reasons and we endorse the **Northern California Open Community Fiber Network (ID# 7299)** for funding under the NTIA BTOP CCI program.

Sincerely,

Leonard Bowman
Tribal Chairperson
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria