C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

Expanded broadband capability has the potential to open new avenues of communication and education to Idaho's largely rural communities. These broadband funding grant opportunities, if awarded, would allow Idaho communities to move forward in this important technological effort. After a careful review, I have found there to be many proposed projects with great potential to benefit the Idaho regions most in need of this opportunity.

I appreciate your thorough consideration of these proposed projects, and I encourage you to consider my attached comments about each grant application. I look forward to the awards decision, and please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance in this process.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/mo

Applicant	AMMON, CITY OF
	AMMON, ID
Application ID	4456
Contact	Bruce Patterson
	bpatterson@ci.ammon.id.us
Project title	Ammon Fiber Optic Network
Program	BTOP
Proposed Project Area	ID
Project type	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
Funding Round	Round 2 - Winter 2010
Grant request	$ 6,514,985
Status	Application Received
Description	This project is a middle mile community fiber project that will serve anchor institutions in Ammon at speeds and prices currently unavailable.

State of Idaho Comments

The State of Idaho <u>Highly Recommends</u> approval of the Ammon Fiber Optic Network project. This project has been reviewed and compared to similar non-BTOP projects that have been deployed in other Idaho communities such as Moscow and Gooding. The creation of a city sponsored and maintained fiber network to facilitate broadband access to key anchor institutions, business and community members is a proven strategy that stimulates economic growth, facilitates the availability of broadband access to community members and increases the safety and efficiencies of emergency services and community government.

Applicant	IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES
	BOISE, ID
Application ID	6743
Contact	Ann Joslin
	ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov
Project title	High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries
Program	BTOP
Proposed Project Area	ID
Project type	Public Computer Center
Funding Round	Round 2 - Winter 2010
Grant request	$ 1,907,531

State of Idaho Comments

The State of Idaho <u>Highly Recommends</u> approval of the High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries project. This project has been reviewed in detail and the positive impacts on the

communities addressed will be significant. This project targets the highest need and least served of all of Idaho's rural communities. Without approval of the project the ability for local communities to receive the library sponsored benefits, available to most other communities, will not happen in the foreseeable future. The cooperation with other public, private and anchor institutions that have been secured by the Idaho Commission for Libraries ensures the success and sustainability of this project.

Applicant	NEZ PERCE TRIBE
	LAPWAI, ID
Application ID	5022
Contact	Christina St Germaine
	chriss@nezperce.org
Project title	Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement
Program	BTOP
Proposed Project Area	ID
Project type	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
Funding Round	Round 2 - Winter 2010
Grant request	$ 1,569,109

State of Idaho Comments
The State of Idaho Highly Recommends approval of the Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project. This project has been reviewed in detail and the positive impacts on the communities and residents of the Nez Perce Reservation will be significant. This project targets the highest need and least served of all of Idaho's rural communities. Without approval of the project the ability for residents, businesses, emergency services, schools and governing agencies to have access to usable levels of bandwidth, that is available to most other communities, will not happen in the foreseeable future. The cooperation with other public, private and anchor institutions that have been secured by the Nez Perce Tribe ensures the success and sustainability of this project.