



CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Courthouse, 175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
Phone: (410) 535-1600 • (301) 855-1243

March 16, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Board of Commissioners
Gerald W. Clark
Linda L. Kelley
Wilson H. Parran
Susan Shaw
Barbara A. Stinnett

Dear Mr. Urban:

The Calvert County Board of Commissioners endorses the round two application of the One Maryland Broadband Network, which requests American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The BTOP funding will focus on projects that include a Middle Mile component and provide new or substantially upgraded services to community anchor institutions.

The One Maryland Broadband Network objectives in the round two application for ARRA funding complement and enhance the high-speed connectivity goals for Calvert County Government, as well as Calvert County Public Schools and Calvert County Public Libraries. This effort lays the groundwork for County government to expand eGovernment capabilities and make citizen participation more accessible through virtual public meetings. Distance learning and public programming at our libraries, community centers, senior centers, and Calvert Marine Museum will be feasible utilizing the greater speed provided by fiber broadband. This Middle Mile initiative truly provides the foundation to connect our citizens to the online services, information, and educational opportunities available both locally and statewide. In addition, we expect this effort to enhance our Police, Fire, and EMS emergency communications. Over the course of the three-year grant, Calvert County Government will purchase the necessary hardware to connect its facilities to the fiber network. The County government will also work with the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC) to maximize access to the County's existing fiber and wireless network.

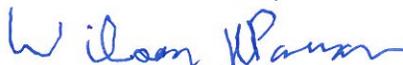
Bringing broadband access to our underserved rural region continues to be a high priority. With the ARRA funding award, expansion of the fiber optic backbone will continue to Southern Maryland linking our community to the Eastern Shore and all of Maryland within the next two years. We support the completion of the statewide network, as it will leverage the capability of high-speed internet connectivity to extend economic opportunities and social benefits into rural communities throughout the state of Maryland.

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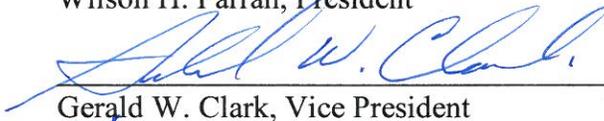
We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Round Two grant proposal to complete the statewide rural network, which is our region's top ARRA infrastructure funding priority. Calvert County will benefit significantly from becoming fully integrated into a world-class broadband network, such as the one proposed by the One Maryland Broadband Network application.

Sincerely,

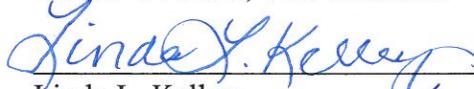
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND



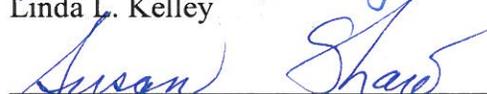
Wilson H. Parran, President



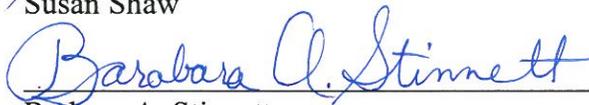
Gerald W. Clark, Vice President



Linda L. Kelley



Susan Shaw



Barbara A. Stinnett

cc: Wayne E. Clark, Board of Directors, Maryland Broadband Cooperative
cc: Patrick Mitchell, Executive Director, Maryland Broadband Cooperative