



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 12, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Maryland
Department of Information Technology
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1994

Dear Mr. Urban:

I am writing in support of funding for the OneMaryland Broadband Network proposal, under the NTIA BTOP program, to extend broadband services to a wide range of anchor institutions in Maryland. In particular, the proposal will extend broadband service to many educational institutions and libraries that support underserved areas and populations in the state. This proposal is a collaborative response to Maryland's needs from many organizations including the University System of Maryland (USM).

While the USM data network currently connects the many campuses of the University System of Maryland as well as many community colleges, the fiber that will result from this project will allow us to extend our connections to areas that are poor in fiber resources. These include a research laboratory on the Chesapeake Bay, an extension of the University of Maryland dental school, a public college in southern Maryland, six community colleges, and a private college on the eastern shore. Additionally, this project will offer fiber connections to the secondary schools in Maryland that are not currently connected by a fiber link. Similarly, county library systems will be linked by fiber as a result of this project.

The USM has programs and activities that will take advantage of this enhanced network. For example, the USM will improve access to bridge courses for secondary students as well as improve in-service education for their teachers. USM institutions offer online education to adult learners, who will be able to have better access to these courses due to this initiative. USM health science colleges will have broader reach for telemedicine.

1807
University of Maryland,
Baltimore

1856
University of Maryland,
College Park

1865
Bowie State University

1866
Towson University

1886
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

1898
Frostburg State University

1900
Coppin State University

1925
Salisbury University

1925
University of Baltimore

1925
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
Science

1947
University of Maryland
University College

1966
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

1985
University of Maryland
Biotechnology Institute

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For these reasons, I strongly support the OneMaryland Broadband Network
BTOP proposal on behalf of the University System of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W E Kirwan". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor