



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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May 15, 2009

«First Name» «Last Name»
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«City» «State» «Zipcode»

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your response to Governor Kulongoski's request for proposed projects and to provide a brief update. The Governor's office is currently reviewing your submission. I appreciate the preview of your project and understand that there will be additional work necessary to put the project into the form dictated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Unfortunately, the NTIA has not yet released its final rules regarding grant applications pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The next steps in this process depend on rules adopted by the NTIA and USDA Rural Development (USDA or RUS) and the role they define for State governments in the distribution of ARRA funds. The Governor has advocated for a coordinating role for the state and we are awaiting a decision from NTIA.

The rules adopted by NTIA and USDA will further define "unserved," "underserved," "broadband" and what qualifies for calculating the 20 percent required for matching funds and other terms integral to the application process.

NTIA will be releasing information about the availability of funds, definitions, and grant directions in the near future, most likely before the end of June. If you send an email to btcp@ntia.doc.gov with your contact information and ask to be put on their correspondence list, then you will receive information directly from NTIA as it becomes available.

When you file your application with NTIA or RUS, please send a complete copy of your filing to me for the Governor's consideration. You need to be prepared to move quickly since the time allowed for filing an application from the date the funds become available may be as little as 30 days.

Under the ARRA *"States are encouraged to coalesce stakeholders and partners, assess community needs, aggregate demand for services, and evaluate demand for technical*



assistance.” I encourage you to continue efforts to partner with other entities in order to strengthen your proposal.

The intent and goal of the Governor’s Office is to coordinate Oregon’s grant proposals as well as support, promote and assist proposals that can successfully bring broadband stimulus dollars to Oregon for the benefit of our communities and citizens.

The Governor would like additional information, not requested in his original letter, to be submitted regarding any projects or applications for funding. This is very likely going to be the same information required by NTIA and RUS. This should include the number of jobs created and retained. For jobs created, indicate if the jobs are short-term or long-term in nature. If you are a public body, then please confirm that no private entity is willing or able to build or serve the area you have identified in your proposal. Finally, please attach a business plan that supports the job information you provide and the sustainability of the project.

To facilitate future communications from the State, please send an email to PUC.BTOP@state.or.us with your contact information. You will be added to a distribution list which will be used as State-level updates become available. Please also watch www.oregon.gov/recovery for updates on stimulus funding programs and Oregon initiatives. More information will follow as the intentions of the federal agencies become known.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

Bryan Conway
Administrator
Telecommunications Division
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