

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0002

Dear Secretary Locke:

We are writing to collectively express our support for the OneMaryland Broadband Network plan. Submitted by the State of Maryland and key local government and private-sector partners, the application seeks middle mile infrastructure funding from Round 2 of the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). We strongly believe that the Maryland proposal will provide critical state-wide infrastructure that will lead Maryland into the technology-based economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This application fits very tightly into the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category of funding. The OneMaryland proposal aims to connect a multitude of community anchor institutions throughout the entire State of Maryland, uniting rural, urban, and suburban communities in one contiguous network across the State. To be precise, if funded, Maryland would be able to provide or enhance broadband service to 1,144 community anchor institutions, including 469 K-12 schools, 68 public libraries, 311 public safety and 911 centers, and 24 community colleges. This funding will provide needed broadband service in certain areas, as well as leverage the demonstrated success of existing operational and institutional networks located throughout the State.

In building this network, the OneMaryland plan will spur economic development and job creation. It will also allow Maryland to complete never before accomplished feats such creating a fiber backbone and necessary redundancy for homeland security purposes that is interconnected amongst all local jurisdictions and State public safety entities. This proposal also has the added benefit of reducing State and local operating costs significantly by eliminating or reducing leased fiber and network connection costs, sharing internet access costs, and converting standard phone services to voice over internet protocol (VoIP).

The Maryland Delegation is extremely supportive of this proposal and looks forward to the great benefits it will bring to Maryland. This is especially true in light of the fact that Maryland did not receive any infrastructure grants in the first round of BTOP funding. Please keep us posted as these awards are announced.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



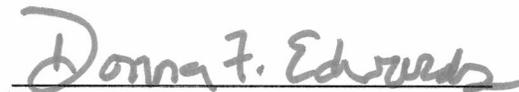
Roscoe G. Bartlett  
Member of Congress



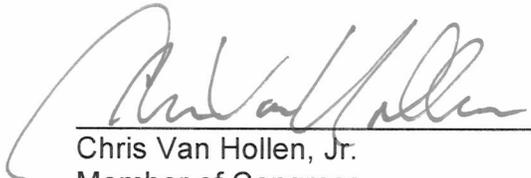
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



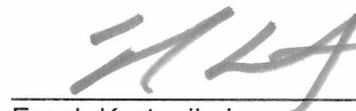
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frank Kratovil, Jr.  
Member of Congress