



M. Jodi Rell
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

August 6, 2009

Anthony Palermino
Commissioner
Department of Public Utility Control
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Commissioner Palermino:

As you may be aware, the State of Connecticut has been engaged in every effort possible over the past five months to secure funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for initiatives and endeavors here in our great state. The Recovery Act provides a tremendous opportunity to help put Connecticut residents back to work, rebuild our communities and position the state to grow through a stronger, more diversified economy.

One of the keys to transforming our economy and growing tomorrow's workforce today is expanding and enhancing the tools at our disposal. In recognition of this, the Recovery Act provides more than \$7 billion for efforts to further the availability and use of broadband technology throughout the county. To form a better and clearer picture as to where we are and where we need to go with broadband technology, the Recovery Act makes funding available each state for the purpose of developing a broadband map.

In the coming days, Connecticut intends to file an application with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, an agency in the U.S. Department of Commerce, for funding under the State Broadband Data and Development Grants Program. The Program is a competitive, merit-based matching grant program that provides funding to develop State-level broadband maps, aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map, and fund statewide initiatives directed at broadband planning.

Funding under the State Broadband Data and Development Grants Program will be awarded to provide for the collection of mapping data and the creation of a geographic broadband inventory map, within each state, so as to promote the development and maintenance of a comprehensive nationwide inventory map of existing broadband service capability and availability in the United States.

To secure the Recovery Act funding, the State will be designating the Department of Public Utility Control as the single grantee in the application and thus the Department must, in consultation with telecommunications and broadband providers and sister state agencies, create and regularly update a detailed, geographic information system (GIS) map displaying levels of broadband service by connection speed and type of technology used and integrating the maps with demographic information to produce a comprehensive state-wide inventory and mapping of existing broadband service and capability.

In order to develop the state-wide geographic information system map and fulfill the public policy goals inherent in the State Broadband Data and Development Grants Program, it is imperative that the Department receive comprehensive data needed to fulfill the mapping standards listed above from all broadband providers and network owners, public or private, operating in the State.

It is anticipated that the Department will treat such data as trade secrets or proprietary commercial or financial information pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the general statutes.

Accordingly, it is requested that the Department initiate a docket to promptly investigate collecting comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data in order for the State of Connecticut to qualify for funding pursuant to the NTIA State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program.

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

cc: Kevin DelGobbo, Chairman, DPUC