To : **ConnectME Authority**

Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME

RE: **Pre-Application Letter**

Project: **Franklin**

In response to the Authority's announcement of its third grant round, VVD Funding LLC d/b/a Premium Choice Broadband ("PCB") is please to submit this pre-application letter for a project we have labeled Franklin

1. We are proposing a localized access point centered on or about N44.64278 W68.17167 which will be linked into PCB's main network via an existing PCB location on Blackcap Mountain. Based on terrain and topography it is estimated this access point will have a reach of 5 +/- miles. In some directions the signal may reach out to 10 miles but the focus of this project will be on the unserved areas within 5 miles. See attached map for a graphical description of proposed project area.

   To best of our knowledge there is little, if any, current broadband availability within the project area.

2. We intend to utilize wireless backhaul links and a wireless point to multi-point architecture in the unlicensed spectrum. Backhaul links with be established with Motorola PTP300 series equipment utilizing 5.4Ghz and 5.8GHz bands at Ethernet data rates up to 25 Mbps. The point to multipoint network will be established using Motorola Canopy equipment utilizing the 900MHz band at Ethernet data rates exceeding 3 Mbps. Available data rates are total aggregate capacity and can be allocated to upstream or downstream flow as situation dictates.

   It is estimated the backhaul links and installation of access points can be completed within 6 months of funding depending on weather and conditions when funding is made available. End customer installations can begin immediately once access points are operational.

3. Current estimated project cost is $100,000. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project.

   PCB is requesting funding for $50,000 representing 50% of the estimated project cost.

4. PCB will fund $50,000, or 50% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.

5. There are an estimated 2,300 households within 10 miles of the project site with an estimated 1,500 within 5 miles. There are an unknown number of businesses within the project area as well. We continue to try and identify specific customers (residential & business) who will have access to the access point. At this time we estimate availability to at least 300 accounts.

   To best of our knowledge there is little to no broadband availability within the project area. Specifically within close proximity to the proposed location which will be the primary focus.

6. We are working with the area businesses and local groups in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

7. PCB operates a wireless point to multipoint network utilizing the same equipment planned for this project encompassing over 41 locations, broadcasting over 2,500 square miles, and servicing over 1,500 customers. PCB has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and further evidence can be provided upon request.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Vamvakias

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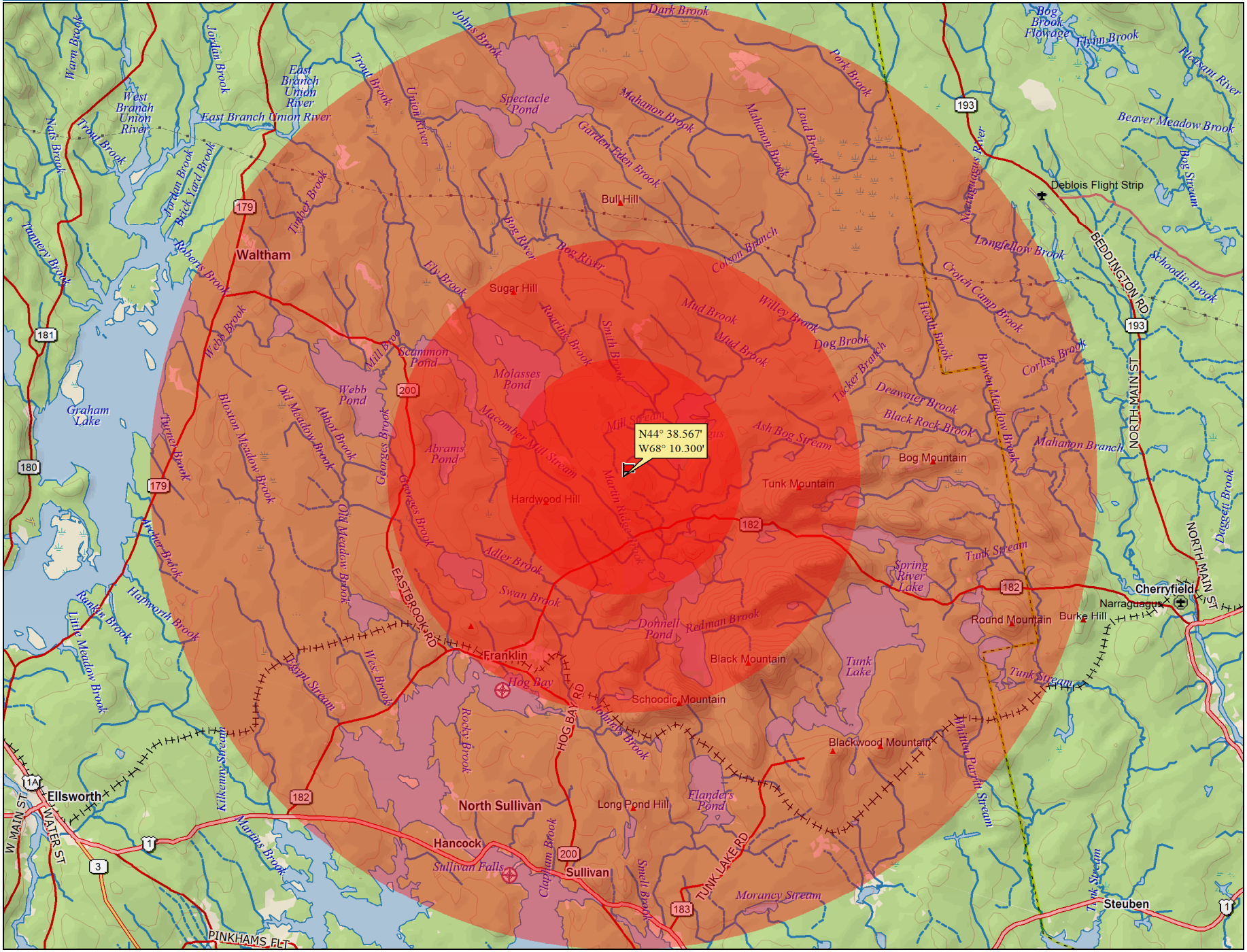

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MN (17.1°W)

Scale 1 : 175,000

1" = 2.76 mi

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