

Director Phillip Lindley
ConnectME Authority
78 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

September 2nd, 2010

Re: Town of West Bath Preapplication Letter

Dear Mr. Lindley,

Please allow this letter to serve as the Town of West Bath's formal preapplication letter for the fifth ConnectME grant round. The Town is very excited about this process, and wants to work with the Authority and provider to extend high-speed internet service to the unserved portion of West Bath.

The unserved area encompasses the Mountain and Harbor Ridge Roads, and includes approximately 25 homes. A listing of all residences is included with the responses from homeowners who have indicated whether or not they would sign up for the new high-speed service if infrastructure were installed. Please note that due to the time constraints of Fairpoint and Comcast rejecting the Town as a partner for this grant round, I was not able to contact each resident. If we are invited to apply for the grant process, I will keep trying to contact people. Within approximately 12 hours of sending an e-mail to most residents, half of the neighborhood replied with overwhelming excitement asking how they could sign up and help this process move forward.

Harbor Ridge and Mountain Roads are specifically excluded from Comcast's coverage requirements as stated in the Town's franchise agreement with Comcast. In addition, over the past five years, numerous people in the neighborhood have asked Susquehanna and subsequently Comcast to provide cable service. Each time the construction crew has come out and the final answer has been that it does not make business sense and they will not service the area. This happened as recently as September, 2010; Comcast stated that the cost to connect the roads to cable would be \$160,000-\$180,000 and they will not participate in the ConnectME process with the Town of West Bath to serve Mountain and Harbor Ridge roads.

I have also spoken with Fairpoint Communications during the summer of 2010, and they have stated that they will not be running DSL service to our area or participating in the fifth grant round for the ConnectME grants. They have stated that they have too many construction projects in process right now, and we are not in their short-term capital plan.

My neighbor and I have been in touch with Lincolnville/Tidewater Telecom from Newcastle, and they have agreed to be the co-applicant on this grant application. They propose to run fiber service from the Midcoast Center for Higher Learning in the City of Bath to West Bath and provide high-speed internet, phone, and television service in one bundle to our residents. If approved, this project will take between six and 12 months to complete, and the service will be the fastest and most reliable on the market today (capable of providing speeds of at least one gigabit up and down with options for three, six, or ten megabits to each household). Our neighborhood is very excited about the possibility of being served by Lincolnville/Tidewater Telecom. They are a locally-owned family business that has been in Maine for over 100 years, and they have been very receptive to our project when no one else has been interested in serving such a small area. We are also excited about working with Tidewater/Lincolnville because they have successfully participated in a ConnectME grant with the Town of Edgecomb; formerly unserved portions of Edgecomb now have fiber service!

Tidewater/Lincolnville will have to run approximately 41,000 feet of fiber cable from the MCHE (Midcoast Center for Higher Education in Bath) to our roads in West Bath. This will cost approximately \$195,000 due to the length of running the infrastructure. Both Tidewater/Lincolnville and the Town will actively pursue any cost-cutting options, but at this point, did not assume any lines

will be leased due to uncertainty of the three-ring binder project in this area. However, Tidewater/Lincolntown has made an appointment with Maine Fiber to discuss leasing a portion of these lines wherever possible, but results from that meeting will be unavailable by the September 17th, 2010 submission deadline. This information will be available for the October 29th grant deadline.

The Town and Lincolntown are aware that the ConnectME Authority's guidelines give a recommended subsidy of 50%, but due to the small number of homes in the unserved area and the length to the nearest infrastructure, the parties are asking for a full subsidy of this project. This area will never be serviced by Comcast due to the franchise agreement specifically excluding it and Fairpoint has been unwilling to bring DSL to the area. Both companies state that it does not make business sense; this tells me that this area of Town is unlikely to ever receive high-speed internet service without subsidy. In addition, the Town understands that this price is high, but hope the Authority will note that the fiber technology will provide a much better service (faster and more diverse) than either cable or DSL. I am aware that this level of subsidy has not been considered before, but the neighborhood would be very grateful to be considered for a ConnectME grant.

We hope this information has been sufficient for the preapplication process for the fifth ConnectME grant round. If the Authority has questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime. I hope to be invited to apply for a ConnectME grant this fall.

Best Regards,

Abbe Yacoben
Selectman-Town of West Bath

List of Neighbors Who Have Been Contacted and Their Response to High-Speed Internet

**List of People on Mountain and Harbor Ridge Roads
Town of West Bath Tax Maps**

Number	Name	Address Per Town Tax Map	Contacted	Interested?
1	JOSLIN, JAMES	260 MOUNTAIN RD	NO	NO
2	BLANCHARD, EDWARD & SUSAN	11 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
3	LUKAS, HENRY J	332 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	NO-Seasonal Residents
4	BROWN, ROBERT D & MARY	43 HARBOR RIDGE ROAD	YES	YES
5	DISKIN, THOMAS A A & GIPSY	53 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
6	MATEOSIAN, PAUL & CHRISTINE	54 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
7	RING, C WARREN	314 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
8	ROSEN, PAUL & ELLIOTT	328 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
9	KEATING, ADRIAN	352 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
10	PAQUETTE, LINDA	368 MOUNTAIN RD	NO	NO
11	KHAN, TARIO & AMINA C/O GREG VOGEL	348 MOUNTAIN RD	NO	NO
12	VARNEY, GARY	406 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
13	MURPHY, KAREN I	432 MOUNTAIN RD	UNLISTED PHONE	UNLISTED PHONE
14	ZOOK, PHILLIP	448 MOUNTAIN RD	NO	NO
15	CASTNER, JACK M & LINDA	440 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
16	MORINE, J THEODORE	454 MOUNTAIN RD	YES	YES
17	PETERS, RICHARD J & SUSAN B	MOUNTAIN RD	YES	LIKELY-Depends upon price
18	GREEN, ROGER	40 HIGH POINT DR	YES	YES
19	LEERS, ANDREA P	20 HIGH POINT DR	YES	YES
20	FREDERICK, JOHN H	125 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
21	YACOBEN, KYLE S & ABIGAIL C	112 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
22	PETER & NANCY KAYE	111 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
23	LAVOIE, LINDA R	99 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
24	SOMMER, JEFFREY B &	85 HARBOR RIDGE RD	YES	YES
25	SWINBURNE, TIMOTHY A	7 HARBOR RIDGE ROAD	YES	YES
	TOTAL INTERESTED		19	
	TOTAL UNABLE TO CONTACT		5	
	TOTAL NOT INTERESTED		1	
	TOTAL RESIDENTS-EXCLUDES LAND ONLY		25	