Pioneer Broadband
37 North St
Houlton, ME 04732
866-355-1254

To: **ConnectME Authority**
Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME
RE: **Pre-Application Letter – 8th Round Grant**
Project: **Fort Fairfield - Limestone Rd RT, Fort Fairfield, ME**

In response to the Authority's announcement of its Eighth Grant Round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("Pioneer") is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "Fort Fairfield – Limestone Rd RT" DSL project.

1. Description of service area with emphasis on "unserved":
We are proposing to install a DSL Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) adjacent to the Remote Terminal (RT) located on the Limestone Rd, in Fort Fairfield, ME. This terminal serves a portion of the Fort Fairfield area that includes approximately 67 unserved households. The exact service area will be the geographical area covered by the LEC's wire facilities at the RT. Pioneer is in the process of acquiring the exact route of the physical cable plant from the LEC.

2. Description of communications with other providers:
We have studied this area extensively and communicated with the other service providers (FairPoint and TimeWarner Cable) in the area. There is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this locale.

3. Description of project, type of service, technology, speed, and build time:
We intend to construct 6 miles of middle-mile, fiber optic backhaul link to connect from the RT to our nearest network node on Route 89 in Limestone. Pioneer uses MFC fiber for much of its network backbone.

The standard offer for broadband speed will be 10M/1M (Tier 5) delivered to each customer using ADSL2+ protocol.

It is estimated the installation of the backhaul links and DSLAM can be completed within 18 months of funding depending on weather conditions and when funding is made available. Customer installations can begin immediately once the DSLAM is operational.

4. Amount of funding requested:
Current estimated project cost is $94,972. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. Pioneer is requesting funding for $83,006 representing 87% of the estimated project cost.

5. Applicants financial capability and commitment to match and other funding.
Pioneer will fund $11,966, or 13% 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.

6. Percentage of households to be served and number of households:
There are an estimated 67 households served within 18,000' of the RT. Pioneer will obtain the exact number of possible customers from the LEC when we submit the full application. There are a few farms, and a USCBP office, and a few businesses. We calculate that the DSLAM can serve all 67 customers, thus providing 100% coverage within the available wire center.

7. Public-private partnerships and Community Support:
We are working with the area town governments in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

8. Applicants experience relevant to project:
Pioneer serves in 55 Maine towns from 80 locations, broad casting over 5000 square miles, and serving over 5000 customers via fiberoptic cable, wireless, cable, DSL, dialup.

Pioneer has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Pioneer has been the recipient of past grant funding from the ConnectME Authority as well.

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,

Don Flewelling

Don Flewelling
Public Relations

Pioneer Broadband
37 North St
Houlton, ME 04730
don@pioneerbroadband.net
Direct (207) 521-5765
Cell (207) 538-5307