

**COLORADO BOCES ASSOCIATION**



*Joining Forces to Enrich Educational Opportunities for Students*

January 16, 2013

Mr. Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Room 4898  
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling,

This letter is written by the Colorado BOCES Association to strongly support the Eagle-Net Alliance and their implementation of the NTIA Grant in Colorado. The Eagle-Net Alliance work is essential to all school districts (especially rural school districts) and BOCES in Colorado.

The Colorado BOCES Association and the nineteen (19) BOCES in Colorado are comprised of 169 of the 178 school districts in Colorado as members. All of these 169 school districts and nineteen (19) BOCES strongly support the Eagle-Net Alliance for the following reasons.

Eagle-Net is:

- Building a statewide middle-mile high-speed broadband network that will connect all school districts and BOCES in over 170 Colorado communities.
- Offers local carriers a choice for middle-mile network access at a lower cost.
- Creating a robust and redundant system that compliments and enhances existing infrastructure and is governed by representatives from across the state on the Eagle-Net Board (a public-private alliance board).

Under the existing system without the Eagle-Net middle-mile broadband network, school districts and BOCES in many parts of the state have very limited access to affordable and reliable increased bandwidth. This increased affordable and reliable bandwidth is necessary for students to participate in distance learning programs, online learning programs, etc. Several BOCES currently provide distance learning and online programs for their member districts and desperately need more bandwidth. This Eagle-Net Alliance program will provide a much needed service and reduce the digital divide between rural, suburban and urban communities and benefits all students in the Colorado K-12 education system. An individual student's zip code in Colorado currently determines the access to information and the quality of education received. This Eagle-Net Alliance Network will help level the playing field for students and schools that are currently underserved with inadequate broadband capacity.

In my 40 plus years in education in Colorado, historically as a school administrator in rural Colorado, I have personally experienced situations where a local telephone company provider charged school districts more to offset costs to their other consumers. Also, I have recently become aware of a situation where students in a rural school in Colorado were unable to take a college entrance test at their school due to lack of broadband capacity and, therefore, the students had to travel a significant distance to the college to complete the entrance exam. The Eagle-Net Alliance program will provide fiber with increased broadband capacity to this school. This increased broadband capacity was not historically

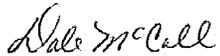
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provided by the local telephone company as it was not feasible as a business venture and thus, the school would have remained vastly underserved for the foreseeable future without the Eagle-Net Project.

In addition, I want to point out that Eagle-Net is a choice and local providers, schools, etc. are not required to buy through Eagle-Net. Each local provider makes that choice.

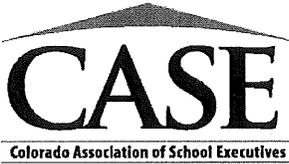
Again, The Colorado BOCES Association strongly supports the Eagle-Net Alliance Project. It is essential to all school districts and BOCES throughout Colorado (especially rural Colorado) to allow students the appropriate learning opportunities.

Sincerely,



Dale McCall, Executive Director  
Colorado BOCES Association  
11274 Weld County Road #17  
Longmont, CO 80504  
Email: [dale.mccall@wildblue.net](mailto:dale.mccall@wildblue.net)  
Cell: 970-381-0720  
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cc: Colorado's Federal Legislative Delegation



October 8, 2012

**Letter of Support for EAGLE-Net, from CASE and CASSA**

EAGLE-Net is a lifeline being developed in Colorado that will be the first of its kind network. It will allow remote and rural areas to compete, and from the perspective of education leaders, is going to allow 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning to take place. The 170 communities being connected will allow equal access to bandwidth at a competitive rate. Anymore, broadband is not a “nice to have,” it is a “need to have” in order to keep our communities vital and to ensure the free flow of knowledge.

The grant and governance of the project is something that we think is moving Colorado in the right direction. For schools, this additional broadband capacity allows students more equal access to the bandwidth needed to learn remotely and, ultimately, to take online tests with quick turnaround. For example, a rural student who currently has minimal access to high-speed Internet could use EAGLE-Net’s network for a faster, reliable connection, resulting in quicker test response time. Additionally, as Colorado educators work to instill 21st Century skills in students, delivered in an online or blended environment, they need the advanced connectivity.

When you look at coursework offered in a large suburban high school and compare it to rural Colorado, it is clear that abundant bandwidth is critical for delivering quality distance learning programs to schools. As the state moves to embrace new content standards, assessments, and evaluation systems that require significant professional learning, we must seek to support videoconferencing, online interactive tools, and other training aids.

It is only by working together that local, state, and federal government entities can share resources and information over a secure and cost-effective network. This includes shared software and cloud services, training classes, and connecting public safety systems and other resources that may be too costly for some of the smaller entities to afford on their own. Additional bandwidth is the only way to truly connect services and economic development opportunities to smaller communities.

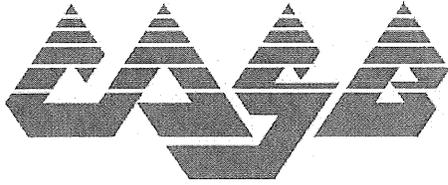
Reliability is the key. EAGLE-Net offers a redundant pathway into communities who may not currently have one. Redundancy helps maintain a healthy and consistent broadband connection into and out of a community.

I just want to thank you for your continued support of this critical program for the future of Colorado’s youth and the economic well-being of our great state.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Caughey  
Executive Director

**CASE Departments**



**Colorado Association of School Boards**  
1200 Grant Street  
Denver, Colorado 80203-2306  
Phone: (303) 832-1000 • (800) 530-8430  
Fax: (303) 832-1086  
[www.casb.org](http://www.casb.org)

November 2, 2012

*Via Email: [esloan@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:esloan@ntia.doc.gov)*

Elaine Sloan  
Federal Program Officer  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave., Room 4898  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Sloan:

In brief introduction, I am the Executive Director of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). CASB's members are nearly every one of the 178 locally elected school boards in Colorado. CASB and its local boards strongly support EAGLE-Net. EAGLE-Net is building the broadband capacity our schools need to deliver a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum to our students at an affordable cost.

Today's students come to school to learn what they need to know to thrive in tomorrow's society. So in addition to civics, the three R's, the arts, history, and science, public schools must help students learn to use technology. That technology, in turn, can help students learn civics, the three R's, the arts, history, and science better than ever before. Whether a child grows up on a busy city street, in a quiet neighborhood, or along a dusty, slow dirt road, the internet access provided at her public school is essential to her academic success and must be consistently available, reliable, and fast.

Yet in much of Colorado, we have failed to provide adequate internet service to public schools and other essential public entities. As a result, many students do not learn to navigate the rich landscape of today's best source of information. As students train to compete in a global economy, access to the full range of services and opportunities available through reliable, high-speed broadband internet is not a matter of luxury; it's a matter of urgent necessity. And our state's record of supplying broadband to some students, but not to all, is a matter of inequity.

EAGLE-Net's work will level the playing field for Colorado students by connecting communities across the state to the same quality of broadband access enjoyed by the Front Range. Some will receive broadband services for the first time; others will receive enhancements to existing infrastructure, ensuring network reliability. Colorado and each and every one of its 178 school districts will benefit.

EAGLE-Net's grant work began in 2010, and the grant funding runs out in August of 2013. With less than a year remaining, some voices are calling for a halt to EAGLE-Net's project in the interests of competing utility companies, companies that have historically failed to offer affordable broadband to local public entities. Students cannot wait for market conditions to permit companies to offer schools affordable rates. The high dollar value of this generous grant attests to high costs associated with building the broadband infrastructure Colorado's schools need. Facing shrinking budgets and rising technology demands, neither the state of Colorado nor school districts can afford the deals offered by the private sector. The NTIA grant allows EAGLE-Net to offer a deal schools can afford now. EAGLE-Net's dedicated leaders and staff, individuals hailing from localities across Colorado, work hard to deliver what they promise.

Wiring an entire mountainous state in three years is an ambitious, complex project. Decisions about logistics, order, and scheduling will naturally raise questions, but as local community meetings with EAGLE-Net reveal, such questions have reasonable answers. EAGLE-Net, bound by its grant terms, is well monitored by both its knowledgeable Board of Directors and its sophisticated grant providers. Moreover, EAGLE-Net is a transparent organization with a comprehensive website detailing its current work and network plan, providing quarterly progress reports, and noting its agreements with local service providers regarding use of its middle-mile connections. There is no evidence EAGLE-Net has departed from the primary purpose of its work, and no good will come from stopping this badly needed work to spend months hunting for a reason to cease operations.

As CASB knows well, and as the growing stack of support letters demonstrates, EAGLE-Net has already succeeded in many unserved and underserved areas. This is no time to stop the work. With less than a third of the grant period remaining, EAGLE-Net is racing the clock to serve the remaining schools, libraries, and other public entities still hoping this program will open the gateway of opportunity for their communities. These communities need this program, this state needs this program, and this program needs support.

EAGLE-Net has CASB's and its members' ongoing support. I hope EAGLE-Net and the Colorado students it serves can count on your support, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken DeLay', with a long diagonal stroke extending from the bottom right of the signature.

Kenneth DeLay  
Executive Director

Cc: Randy Zila, CEO, EAGLE-Net Alliance (*Via email: [randy.zila@co-eaglenet.net](mailto:randy.zila@co-eaglenet.net)*)

**From:** Scott Thomassen [scott@clascomp.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 4:44 PM

**To:** Larry Strickling; Anthony G. Wilhelm; Laura Dodson; Elaine Sloan; [sarah\\_hughes@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:sarah_hughes@bennet.senate.gov); [jennifer\\_rokala@markudall.senate.gov](mailto:jennifer_rokala@markudall.senate.gov); [mike.bennett@mail.house.gov](mailto:mike.bennett@mail.house.gov); [morris.price@mail.house.gov](mailto:morris.price@mail.house.gov); [joe.rall@mail.house.gov](mailto:joe.rall@mail.house.gov); [andy.schultheiss@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.schultheiss@mail.house.gov); [andy.merritt@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.merritt@mail.house.gov); [danielle.radovich@mail.house.gov](mailto:danielle.radovich@mail.house.gov); [nicholas.zupancic@mail.house.gov](mailto:nicholas.zupancic@mail.house.gov); [randy.zila@co-eaglenet.net](mailto:randy.zila@co-eaglenet.net); [patrick.swonger@co-eaglenet.net](mailto:patrick.swonger@co-eaglenet.net)

**Subject:** Support for Eagle-Net and other broadband initiatives.

To all concerned,

As members of the Delta County Local Technology Planning Team we believe that support for any initiative that brings or improves broadband internet service to the rural areas of the State of Colorado are very important to our economic future.

The effort Eagle-Net is making within our state to put significant new infrastructure in place for the benefit of education, is just such an initiative. We hope that Eagle-Net lines will carry important new capabilities for high speed internet access to many of the rural educational and anchor institutions who need them most. As these lines are built, they may also provide new paths for startup companies to provide internet and telecom services, competitive with what is available in larger cities. In our rural areas these services are desperately needed for our economic future.

Whether it is by public or private effort, the Delta County Local Technology Planning Team is in support of any legitimate effort to improve the backbone of internet infrastructure. We cannot sustain our communities with the completely inadequate service we currently suffer. We encourage anyone concerned to consider what's best for all of the communities that would benefit the most from better service, rather than what's best those few who believe they will continue to benefit from the lack of competition in their markets.

Thank you,  
Members of the Delta County Local Technology Planning Team

Glen Black  
City of Delta

Anthony Cooper  
Delta County School District 51

Bruce Hovde  
Delta County Commissioner

John Latta  
Information Technology  
Delta County

Scott Thomassen  
Businessman and concerned citizen  
Classic Computers of Delta

Tom Huerkamp  
Businessman and concerned citizen  
President  
ProSpace Interiors of Delta

Kirby Clock  
District Manager  
Delta County Ambulance District

Mary Cooper  
Delta City Counsel

Sarah Carlquist  
Director  
Delta County Economic Development

Gyneepher Thomassen  
President  
Delta Area Chamber of Commerce

**From:** Hammond, Robert [[mailto:hammond\\_r@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hammond_r@cde.state.co.us)]

**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 2:52 PM

**To:** Anthony G. Wilhelm

**Subject:** Colorado EAGLE-Net Alliance

Dear Mr. Wilhelm,

I am writing to make you aware of the EAGLE-Net Alliance in Colorado, a critical organization for Colorado's future. As Colorado Commissioner of Education I have worked first hand with EAGLE-Net Alliance and believe in and support their work. We supported their original grant application and continue to support their work as they build their infrastructure.

EAGLE-Net is building a first-of-its-kind statewide middle-mile high-speed broadband network that will connect to about 170 Colorado communities, offering local carriers a choice for middle mile network access at a lower cost and greater access for their customers. EAGLE-Net is currently working to create a robust and redundant system that complements and enhances existing infrastructure. Having a redundant network is not a luxury, it is necessary to ensure network reliability. Especially given the increasing data demands on our schools and districts across the state.

We strongly believe this work will have a positive impact on quality of life, increased access to educational support, and student achievement across Colorado. For schools, additional broadband capacity allows students more equal access to the bandwidth needed to take timed, online tests. For example, a rural student who currently has minimal access to high speed Internet could use EAGLE-Net's network for a faster, reliable connection, resulting in quicker test response time. Abundant bandwidth is also critical for delivering distance learning programs to schools across Colorado to support videoconferencing, online interactive tools, and blended and online learning options. As districts must deal with diminishing resources, a reliance on alternative instructional models is critical.

The project always envisioned that local, state and federal government entities could share resources and information over a secure network that is time and cost effective. Shared software, cloud services, online training, public safety connectivity and other resources that may be cost prohibitive to smaller entities can become affordable and accessible through EAGLE-Net's infrastructure. By adding additional bandwidth options and availability, smaller communities will be able to have services and economic development opportunities that may be eluding them today.

Please consider supporting this effort and the important work EAGLE-Net has underway. Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Robert K. Hammond  
Commissioner of Education  
Colorado Department of Education

**Robert K. Hammond** | Commissioner of Education | Colorado Department of Education | 201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203 | tel 303.866.6646 | [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)

## EATON SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2

Dr. Randy Miller  
Superintendent  
(970) 454-3402  
(970) 454-5193 Fax

200 Park Avenue  
Eaton, Colorado 80615

October 11, 2012

Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., Room 4898  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

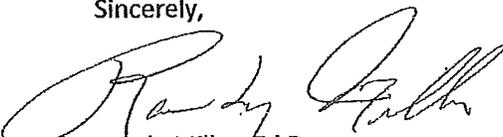
I am writing you in support of EagleNet Alliance for Eaton School District. We will soon be able to tap into twice the amount of bandwidth for the same cost that we are paying now by going through EagleNet. This will allow us to expand our technology throughout the district, as we are piloting laptops at the middle school and are looking to expand into grades 6-12. Eaton School District would not be able to cover these costs without EagleNet.

As part of Centennial BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) our premise from the start was to provide the middle-mile and help make internet a possibility for all of Colorado schools. By creating a robust and redundant system it will only enhance existing infrastructure. I understand there is some concern that this creates competition and may cause some business to lower their rates. I do not see that as a problem at all. In fact, I believe this is healthy and will ultimately benefit the students, staff and parents at Eaton.

Eaton School District continually strives to improve student achievement and with more pressure from state and federal government we need to take advantage of everything we have. EagleNet will help our school prepare and be ahead of all of the demands placed upon us. We will now be better able to share resources with other local, state and federal government entities. Once again this can only serve to help everyone at our school district.

In closing, EagleNet will only serve to help communities like ours to better serve our students and community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information on EagleNet and Eaton School District.

Sincerely,



Randy Miller, Ed.D  
Superintendent

Cc: Dr. Randy Zila, CEO EagleNet  
Eaton School District Re-2 Board of Education

Administration

Dr. Michelle Johnstone  
Superintendent

Cyndi Hofmeister  
Director of Learning  
Services

Tracy Amen  
HR Spec/Executive Assistant

## Brush Public Schools Re-2(J)

P.O. Box 585 - 527 Industrial Park Road

Brush, CO 80723

Telephone (970)842-5176 Fax (970)842-4481

Board of Education

Don Dillehay  
Michael Dixon  
Frank Phillips Jr.  
Marty Stratman  
Margo Mesch  
Blaine Uhrig  
Warren Walker

October 2, 2012

Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: EagleNet Alliance

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

Brush School District is a small rural district with 1500 students. Through Eagle-Net we will be able to utilize world class broadband services provided directly to us by the same carrier that has been our service provider in the past. EagleNet is creating a robust and redundant system that compliments and enhances existing infrastructure. Having a redundant network is not a luxury – it's a necessity to ensure network reliability. Redundancy helps maintain a healthy and consistent broadband connection into and out of a community.

What this means for Colorado:

Beyond what EagleNet can do for us and other school districts, it will allow for local, state and federal government entities to share resources and information with each other over a secure network for cost savings, and time efficiency. This includes shared software and cloud services, training classes, connecting public safety systems and other resources that may be too costly for some of the smaller entities to afford on their own. By adding additional bandwidth options and availability, smaller communities will be able to have services and economic development opportunities that may be eluding them today. This can be a win-win situation for not only Colorado communities but also small internet providers in Colorado as well.

What this means for Brush School District:

Here in the Brush School District we are pushing forward to use technology in the classroom, provide distance learning opportunities, and support concurrent enrollment. In the classroom, teachers are better able to differentiate instruction which increases student achievement. Increasingly districts are coming together to provide educational opportunities for students, in our instance we just received a



*Making a difference in our world... student-by-student*

USDA Grant that creates distance learning for the Brush School District and three significantly smaller rural districts. Through the distance learning labs we will offer additional science, technology, and post secondary learning opportunities. Through distance learning we are able to offer concurrent enrollment with Morgan Community College, and will soon have the opportunity to reach beyond Morgan County. Our school facilities are becoming more equipped with Promethean Boards and Mimeo Teach in every classroom which allows for team teaching, differentiated instruction, and an increase in student engagement. As we work to increase educational opportunities for our students the need for technology and broadband increases drastically. We are thankful that we have this opportunity today and the ability for greater broadband opportunities in the future. The limitlessness is an incredible opportunity for rural Colorado.

As you are aware, school districts are faced with great budget constraints. In our school district we will be able to reach broadband levels that were not previously available for an amount significantly less than we have paid in the past for inferior service. We need to focus on every opportunity to reduce the expenses that we can while facing the need to increase services especially in the area of internet technology. Our internet services will increase exponentially over time while the cost will be reduced to a fraction of the prior costs as a result of the infrastructure that EagleNet is providing in Colorado.

We are members of the Centennial BOCES group that prepared the original and the second application seeking a grant from the U S Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in coordination with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). C-BOCES represents a major portion of the northeast corner of Colorado, including school districts in Morgan, Weld, Larimer and Boulder Counties. The very premises of our application dealt with the tremendous need in rural Colorado for AFFORDABLE broadband connectivity. Colorado rural areas need to be able to be on an equal playing field with other states with fast broadband service. Only a few of the 178 school districts in Colorado are on an equal playing field with most of the nation. It seems that those few that are, may be paying a much higher rate for the broadband services than many of their equals across the nation.

It was from the very beginning, an intent to not offend or distance those who were already making an effort to provide quality internet. There was never intent to take away clients and customers that the current providers were attempting to provide. The purpose is to allow all providers to make available outstanding service at a price that school districts with meager incomes could afford to use. The administration of the grant and the services have moved from our BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) into a state-wide governmental service group with dynamic state-wide representation with members that have a diverse and appropriate understanding of the type of services that EagleNet was created to provide.

EagleNet does not provide service directly to any of the users of their services. They are a middle-mile provider. To get the broadband services that they are establishing to the end user, there must be a local carrier. What EagleNet is able to do is give the local provider an option for what should be a new opportunity to provide less expensive services to those school districts, libraries, junior colleges and universities as well as other local governmental institutions a greatly reduced cost of a greater level of service to internet in Colorado.

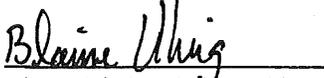
No one has ever been able to do this in Colorado before. This grant of \$100.6 million has given the kids of Colorado an opportunity that puts them in the position of being competitive with the kids in big cities of the east coast and the west coast where these types of services already exist. Indeed we are already seeing new opportunities that are afforded us in distance learning that was only a dream a few months ago.



We stand in support of EagleNet Alliance and we ask you to support this initiative. In an era of decreasing resources, we are able to increase learning opportunities for our students and those in all of the school districts of Colorado as well as the libraries, colleges, universities and local governmental entities at a much lower cost. We invite you to visit the Brush School District or call with questions. We would be proud to show each and every one who has an interest in the future of EagleNet Alliance to see what it has already done for us.

Sincerely,

  
Don Dillehay, President

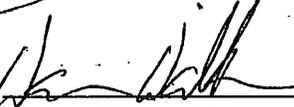
  
Blaine Uhrig, Vice President

  
Margo Mesch, Secretary/Treasurer

  
Mike Dixon, Member

  
Frank Phillips, Jr. Member

  
Marty Stratman, Member

  
Warren Walker, Member

  
Dr. Michelle Johnstone, Superintendent

Cc:

Anthony Wilhelm  
Elaine Sloan  
Laura Dodson  
Senator Mark Udall  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Representative Cory Gardner  
Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative Doug Lamborn  
Representative Ed Perlmutter  
Representative Jared Polis  
Representative Michael Coffman  
Representative Scott Tipton



*Making a difference in our world... student-by-student*



October 8, 2012

To whom it may concern:

eNetColorado is a statewide project whose mission is "to provide educators and districts statewide access to high quality content and resources that support the improvement of student achievement." We are working with 14 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) which are supporting over 150 of the smallest school districts in Colorado. We are working with these districts and BOCES to bring staff development and high quality content that will support classroom instruction in districts that lack some of the necessary and basic broadband access that many of the larger districts in Colorado already have access too.

Until the EagleNet Alliance was formed and began reaching out to these smaller rural districts they had little hope of being able to support access to many of the resources that the eNetColorado partnership of over 20 community organizations like the Museum of Nature and Science, History Colorado, Junior Achievement, and the Denver Art Museum and many others have developed to support students across the state of Colorado. Time after time we would hear from these districts that their local providers just could not provide and/or they could not afford the level of access necessary to support the students and teachers in these districts to access these outstanding resources.

As eNetColorado works to identify high quality resources that all students in Colorado should have access to it seems imperative that a project like the EagleNet Alliance be in place and supported by local, state, and national governments. The Eagle-Net Alliance is providing the necessary broadband access so there are opportunities for the smallest school districts and communities in Colorado to provide their students online access to the best possible learning resources. It also seems imperative that through government and private partnerships, which the Eagle-Net Alliance supports, local communities and companies can better work together to ensure all residents in our rural communities have sufficient broadband access to support their current and future needs.

I have been an educator in Colorado for over 40 years and believe that the Eagle-Net Alliance offers the best hope and opportunity for our smallest schools and communities to have the access they need to meet the demands on the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

*Dan Morris*

Director, eNetColorado  
303-917-3922  
danmorris@enetcolorado.org



## District Support Center

715 West Platte Avenue  
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701  
970-867-5633  
Fax: 970-867-0262  
www.morgan.k12.co.us

October 15, 2012

Anthony Wilhelm  
Director, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
1401 Constitution Ave., Room 4898  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: EagleNet Alliance

Dear Director, Anthony Wilhelm,

The Morgan County School District has been and continues to be a strong supporter of the EagleNet Alliance.

Our support for this project has remained steadfast since the beginning. In rural Colorado there is very little opportunity for high speed internet access. We do not have the vast amount of companies that can/will provide internet access at speeds which are needed and at an equivalent price of metro areas. We understand that it does not meet their business models for profitability. Even though we understand, it is hard to explain to school staff and students that their internet cannot be upgraded to higher speeds because of the location of where they live and the higher costs for the internet, which is due to the lack (or non-existence) of competition.

Morgan County School District believes in this project because cooperation of all the school districts within the state of Colorado will bring better services at a much lower cost, as evident with our communities' model. The Morgan County School District has been in cooperation with the City of Fort Morgan Government (which oversees the public library) and the Morgan County Government for over seven years to provide higher internet connectivity between all entities. All three of the entities could not have obtained our current level of services without the cooperation to install and run fiber optics between all separated entities. As a group we are at the point of requiring faster internet services to avoid the daily slowdowns, but are unable to upgrade due to the high cost.

Growth and change is easily feared by individuals and businesses because of a scarcity mentality. The completion of the EagleNet project will not only provide a robust and redundant system that complements and enhances existing infrastructure but also provide economic benefits to those communities. This project will connect 170 Colorado communities and if it provides similar opportunities that we have gained by cooperating with just our three local governments, the results will far surpass the projected outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Echols".

Ron Echols, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Amack".

Brian Amack, Director of Technology

# Weld County School District RE-1

Gilcrest • LaSalle • Platteville

P.O. Box 157  
14827 W.C.R. 42  
Gilcrest, CO 80623

Dr. Jo Barbie, Superintendent  
Scott Spearnak, Director of Learning Services

Phone 970-737-2403  
Fax 970-737-2516  
Metro 303-629-9337

October 23, 2012

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communication and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Weld County School District RE-1 is a small rural school district north of Denver, Colorado. The school district's enrollment is approximately 2,000 students. Weld RE-1 is a member of the Centennial Board of Cooperating Education Services. As Superintendent of Schools, I currently serve on the Superintendent's Advisory Council for Centennial B.O.C.E.S and on the EagleNet Alliance Board of Directors as a Centennial B.O.C.E.S. representative.

Weld RE-1 was one of the first school districts in Colorado to deploy a 1:1 laptop initiative at the high school level. The district was also one of the first school districts to establish wifi solutions in all schools and buildings in conjunction with the laptop initiative. Due to the 1:1 laptop initiative and wifi solutions demands, broadband services expanded far beyond the T-1 line that was initially available to the school district. Only through EagleNet was the school district able to expand to meet the demands of students and staff. The cost to purchase almost 50 times the amount broadband needed was made affordable by the efforts of EagleNet. This entity created a robust and redundant system that complimented and enhanced existing infrastructure. It is only through the EagleNet Alliance and the U. S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant that Weld RE-1 was able to expand its broadband and it is only through this grant that all 178 school districts and 170 municipalities in Colorado will have a similar opportunity.

From the very beginning, it was never the intention of EagleNet to offend entities already providing internet services. There was never intent to capture customers from current providers. The purpose was to provide affordable internet access to school districts across the state. EagleNet is a middle-mile provider.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Steve Reams  
Director

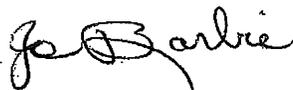
Nancy Sarchet  
Director

Our Total Commitment is to Provide an Exemplary Education and Safe Environment for all Students

The end user must use a local provider. EagleNet is able to give the local provider an option for what should be a new opportunity to provide less expensive services to school districts, libraries, junior colleges, universities and local governments. The BTOP grant will provide children across the state opportunity that puts them in the position of being competitive with children all over the United States.

Weld County School District RE-1 strongly supports the EagleNet Alliance and the school district asks for your support. It is only through the effort of EagleNet and the BTOP grant that Weld RE-1 is able to provide technologically rich and ever expanding learning opportunities for our students. The school district invites you to visit our schools in LaSalle, Gilcrest and Platteville. We are extremely proud of the technology that has been made possible by our partnership with EagleNet.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jo Barbie  
Superintendent of Schools

- pc: Anthony Wilhelm, Director – Broadband Technology Opportunities
- Laura Dodson, Director – BTOP Infrastructure Projects
- Elaine Sloan, Federal Program Officer
- Senator Michael Bennet
- Senator Mark Udall
- Representative Corey Gardner
- Representative Diana DeGette
- Representative Doug Lamborn
- Representative Jared Polis
- Representative Michael Coffman
- Representative Ed Perlmutter
- Representative Scott Tipton

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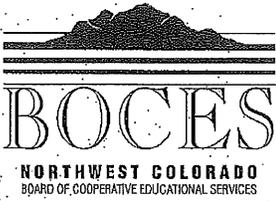
**Ken Garcia**  
Secretary

**David Eckhardt**  
Treasurer

**Steve Reams**  
Director

**Nancy Sarchet**  
Director

**Our Total Commitment is to Provide an Exemplary Education and Safe Environment for all Students**



Joining forces to enrich educational  
opportunities for Northwest Colorado

P.O. Box 773390  
325 7th Street  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477  
970-879-0391 • FAX 970-879-0442

October 9, 2012

**East Grand Schools**

P.O. Box 125  
Granby, CO 80446  
970-887-2581

**Hayden Schools**

P.O. Box 70  
Hayden, CO 81639  
970-276-3864

**North Park Schools**

P.O. Box 798  
Walden, CO 80480  
970-723-3300

**South Routt Schools**

P.O. Box 158  
Oak Creek, CO 80467  
970-736-2313

**Steamboat Springs Schools**

P.O. Box 774368  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477  
970-879-1530

**West Grand Schools**

P.O. Box 515  
Kemmling, CO 80446  
970-724-3217

Mr. Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Room 4898  
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling,

This letter is written by the NW Colorado BOCES to support the Eagle-Net Alliance and their implementation of the NTIA Grant in Northwest Colorado. The Eagle-Net Alliance work is essential to school districts in Northwest Colorado.

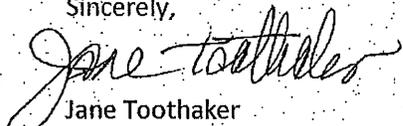
The NW Colorado BOCES works with seven rural school districts in the northwest corner of Colorado and the completion of this project is very important to the infrastructure needs in this area of the state. Eagle-Net is creating a robust and redundant system that compliments and enhances existing infrastructure and is governed by representatives from across the state on the Eagle-Net Board (a public-private alliance board).

Under the existing system without the Eagle-Net middle-mile broadband network, school districts and our BOCES have very limited access to affordable and reliable increased bandwidth. This increased affordable and reliable bandwidth is necessary for students to participate in distance learning programs, online learning programs, etc. This Eagle-Net Alliance program will provide a much needed service and reduce the digital divide between rural, suburban and urban communities and benefits all students in the Colorado K-12 education system.

Recently the Eagle-Net Alliance met with school and community stakeholders in the northwest region with the meeting location in Steamboat Springs. Many questions were discussed and participants seemed to have a better understanding of the project including timelines and the focus of the project.

The NW Colorado BOCES supports the Eagle-Net Alliance Project. It is essential to all school districts and BOCES throughout Colorado (especially rural Colorado) to allow students the appropriate learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

  
Jane Toothaker  
NW BOCES Executive Director

# TOWN OF DOLORES

Incorporated 1900  
420 Central Avenue • P. O. Box 630  
Dolores, Colorado 81323  
Phone (970) 882-7720

October 11, 2012

Scott Tipton  
United States Representative  
#10 West Main Street, Suite 107  
Cortez, CO 81321

RE: September 17<sup>th</sup> Letter to Lawrence Strickling

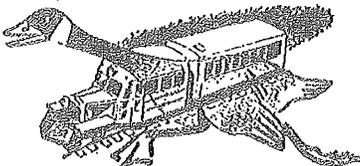
Dear Mr. Tipton:

I recently read the letter sent to Lawrence Strickling, dated September 17, 2012 and signed by the Republican Congressional representatives for Colorado asking that the EAGLE-Net project be put on hold. I am troubled by this position and even more so that the Town of Dolores, where a current construction project is underway may be stalled by these actions. The Town of Dolores is getting ready to install a fiber optic back-bone within town that will connect with the EAGLE-Net project and ultimately supply the Town Hall and Library with a much faster internet connection than is currently available. In addition, EAGLE-Net has just completed the installation of conduit to both the Dolores School District RE-4a school administration building and the school complex.

The intent of this "open access" network that the Town and EAGLE-Net are pursuing is not only to extend a superior infrastructure to our anchor institutions but to allow private providers an opportunity to establish their services in town. We welcome the competition and the resulting menu of options that could become available to our residents and businesses.

It appears, from your letter, that several internet providers are concerned about the EAGLE-Net project indicating that they were able to supply a similar product in rural Colorado. In the case of Dolores, two separate companies own fiber optic infrastructure that passes through town but they have yet to provide these services here. I find their argument a bit disingenuous and feel that their lack of action in our community helps legitimize the efforts underway by EAGLE-Net and the Town.

If EAGLE-Net is stalled, there will be little reason for the Town of Dolores to continue with its fiber build that was funded by the Department of Local Affairs. We are dependent on EAGLE-



"HOME OF THE GALLOPING GOOSE"  
DOLORES' CENTENNIAL  
YEAR 2000

Net to be able to piggy-back on their "middle-mile" fiber optic infrastructure to reach the "outside world." We are also working under a similar timeframe as EAGLE-Net and must complete our build by the end of 2013. The last thing we need is for the money already spent on this cooperative project to go to waste.

I would like to see EAGLE-Net fulfill their promise here in Dolores and in order to do so, we need a commitment from them which may vanish if they are put on hold. There will undoubtedly be extra cost to re-start such a project if their contractors are forced to re-mobilize after being pulled off the job.

If you have any questions regarding our local efforts or our experience with EAGLE-Net, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Dolores Town Hall (970) 882-7720 or [manager@townofdolores.com](mailto:manager@townofdolores.com).

Sincerely,

  
Ryan Mahoney,  
Town Manager



October 5, 2012

We are writing this letter in support of the Eagle-Net Alliance BTOP grant initiative, that is investing in critical communications infrastructure and increasing broadband access to public institutions and private service providers through a statewide broadband network.

Massive Networks is working with Colorado Eagle-Net to provide an extreme diverse and scalable private network for the medical industry which is by far more secure than traversing the public internet. When connected to an Ethernet connection the customer can access a (PNT) Private Network Transport on the Massive Private Cloud to access Collocated gear or Managed Hosting Solutions or access public Internet

EAGLE-Net is building a first-of-its-kind statewide middle-mile high-speed broadband network that will connect to about 170 Colorado communities, urban and rural. Public and private healthcare facilities in cities, counties, schools, clinics and even first responder locations (fire and police) will benefit from the improved broadband access and new virtual hosted healthcare solutions.

Abundant bandwidth is also critical for delivering telemedicine and tele-health applications, distance learning programs to schools providing nursing and EMS programs and other robust cloud based online interactive tools, and other training aids.

Local, state and federal government entities can share resources and information amongst one another from both urban to rural environments over a secure statewide network for cost savings, and time efficiency. This includes shared software and cloud services connecting public safety systems and other resources that may be too costly to enable singularly or on their own in rural areas.

We stand in support of Eagle Net Alliance and we ask you to support this initiative as well. In an era of decreasing resources, we are able to increase or improve healthcare resource access for doctors, clinics, hospitals, students and first responders at a much lower cost. We invite you to call with any question you may have.

Sincerely,

Kevin Flake  
181 Inverness DR w  
Englewood CO. 80112  
[www.massivenetworks.net](http://www.massivenetworks.net)  
[kflake@massivenetworks.net](mailto:kflake@massivenetworks.net)  
303-800-1300 ex 5001



# K2 Communications

Cable Television, \* High Speed Internet \* Digital Telephone

322 Main Street \* PO Box 232 \* Mead, CO 80542 \* 970-535-6323

October 1, 2012

To whom it may concern;

My name is Gary Shields and I am the owner of K2 Communications, LLC (K2), we are a family owned CATV franchise serving the community of Mead, Colorado and Mead is centrally located between Ft. Collins and Denver along the Interstate 25 corridor.

I am writing this letter to you so that you will know about the positive impact that EagleNet Alliance has had upon the K2 business model and the community of Mead, CO.

In 2002, I purchased the operating assets of the Mead system at a bankruptcy auction and in May of 2005 we introduced the first high speed internet connection (other than dial-up) to the Mead Community. At that time, the only available bandwidth services in the area were T-1 lines and from May of 2005 to December 2008, we supported the entire community on 2 T-1 lines, a total of 3 Mbps.

In June of 2008, we began working with Qwest to install a DS-3 circuit (45 Mbps) and I was told it would take approximately 6 weeks to deliver this service, 6 MONTHS later; we finally turned up the DS-3 circuit and have operated on that circuit until just 2 weeks ago.

Recently, the bandwidth demand from our customers had exceeded our capacity on the DS-3 circuit and has existed that way for the past 11 months (since November 2011). I credit this increased bandwidth demand to three basic issues:

1. Expanded Uses for the Internet-expanded uses of the internet such as TiVO, Roku, Playstations, Netflix, Blockbuster, Amazon and Apple TV have contributed significantly to customer bandwidth demand.
2. New homes being built- In the past 18 months there have been approximately 165 homes built within our service area, this is more than 10% growth for the homes passed within our service area.
3. Open Range Communications bankruptcy- when Open Range Communications went out of business, we picked up the majority of their subscribers within our service area. Open Range is a good example of a bad program for federal funding. I say this because they were a company implementing an unproven technology that had invaded our service area by representing that it was underserved and made us ineligible for USDA funding.

Until recently, our only option for additional bandwidth appeared to be adding another DS-3 circuit thru an incumbent provider. Not only was this option undesirable because it did not make technological sense, but also that it would have doubled our cost of bandwidth.

And now with all of the above being said, I can now get to the point of this letter which is to let you know that I support EagleNet Alliance. In the short time that I have been involved with EagleNet, we have been able to increase our bandwidth capacity nearly 7 fold while decreasing our month costs by more than \$500 per month over the single DS-3 circuit. A further illustration of (2) DS-3 circuits would be that we have been able to secure more than 3 times the bandwidth at a savings of nearly \$3,500 monthly.

In addition to the benefits of expanded bandwidth and better pricing, my association with EagleNet has allowed me to expand my service offerings and to look further into deploying services in other areas both locally and across the state that were previously unavailable to me. These opportunities were unavailable because of the lack of bandwidth availability and lack of connectivity throughout the state.

I guess that my final point would be: that for a very long time there has been a condition that appeared to exist where there were very few municipalities across the state of Colorado that had adequate bandwidth available to local service providers and ultimately to residential end users. I believe that EagleNet Alliance has done more in the past few months to even the divide of bandwidth availability than would have been possible over the next decade had they not been funded.

In my estimation, funding of EagleNet alliance is tax payer money well spent. I believe this not only because of what they have done for me and my business but because of my interaction with the EA team. I have been able to have discussions with their management team, executives and board members and I believe that they have the right personnel in place to accomplish their mission and that they have a firm understanding on what has been lacking in Colorado.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and would be happy to discuss my support of EagleNet Alliance with you at length if you would like further clarification or understanding from me.

Best Regards,

Gary Shields  
K2 Communications, LLC  
[gary.shields@k2cable.net](mailto:gary.shields@k2cable.net)  
970-535-6323



October 23, 2012

Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0002

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

We write in regard to the EAGLE-Net project—the important middle-mile statewide Colorado fiber initiative that was funded by NTIA under BTOP. The EAGLE -Net program and model are exemplary, and exactly the kind of project that our members and stakeholders support as furthering the public interest in communications. EAGLE-Net plans to create a statewide fiber infrastructure with a combination of newly constructed fiber optics and leased fiber (where such fiber is available on the market).

EAGLE-Net's network will reach every school district in Colorado and, in partnership with local providers, will have the potential to reach every school and library in Colorado. Its planned infrastructure reaches into the most rural, mountainous, hard-to-reach parts of the state. As a result of these partnerships and the new fiber, schools and libraries in Colorado will have access to high-bandwidth fiber-based services at prices that reflect that the network is connected to the Internet backbone, removing the pricing disparity so often faced by rural areas relative to urban and suburban areas because of their distance from an Internet point of presence, such as that in Denver.

At the same time as delivering this tremendous capacity to community anchor institutions, EAGLE-Net will provide non-discriminatory, open access to any and all qualified private sector providers who choose to use its infrastructure—thus bridging, for the commercial sector, that same divide that currently exists between suburban and urban areas on the one hand, and rural areas on the other. The emergence of a fiber-based competitive market on those routes will open up rural markets and enable cost-effective access to those markets for private entities that wish to serve residential and small business customers.

We understand that there has been significant opposition to this new fiber, and to the potential for competition in underserved rural areas. We also understand that a range of allegations have been made about the management of the project. In this regard, we have great confidence that NTIA—which has done an exemplary job of creating and overseeing BTOP—has more than adequately overseen the EAGLE-Net project. And for that reason, we are quite dubious about wild allegations made by self-interested parties that oppose EAGLE-Net.

October 23, 2013

Page 2

We certainly hope that the aggressive public relations campaign that has been mounted by EAGLE-Net's opponents does not serve to put this important job-creating, competition-enhancing network at risk—thereby depriving the school children, library users, and rural residents of Colorado of such a significant investment in their future.

We note, too, that if this opposition to EAGLE-Net is allowed to succeed, the precedent that would be set could have the effect of putting at risk similar initiatives throughout the country (funded by BTOP or otherwise) by inviting similar anti-competition campaigns.

We thank you and your staff for the efforts made over the past few years to use BTOP to enable the potential of broadband in rural America.

Sincerely,



Steve Traylor  
Executive Director, NATOA



Charles Benton  
Chairman, Benton Foundation

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper  
Senator Mark Udall  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative Jared Polis  
Representative Scott Tipton  
Representative Cory Gardner  
Representative Doug Lamborn  
Representative Mike Coffman  
Representative Ed Perlmutter



Serving ASPEN . BUENA VISTA . CMC . EAGLE . GARFIELD 16 . GARFIELD RE 2 . LAKE . PARK . ROARING FORK . SALIDA . SUMMIT

MAIN OFFICE  
1713 MT. LINCOLN DRIVE WEST  
LEADVILLE COLORADO 80461  
p 719.486.2603 f 719.486.2109  
WWW.MTNBOCES.ORG

October 22, 2012

Mr. Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
1401 Constitution Avenue, Room 4898  
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling,

I am writing to strongly support the Eagle-Net Alliance and their implementation of the NTIA Grant in Colorado, which is essential to improving educational opportunities in the ten rural school districts that are members of the Mountain Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Mountain BOCES).

All of our school districts support the Eagle-Net Alliance because Eagle-Net provides affordable, reliable increased bandwidth necessary for students to participate in distance learning programs and make use of online learning tools and opportunities, reducing the digital divide between rural and urban communities and providing more equal access for rural students. Eagle-Net would also improve district access to all sorts of education related opportunities—including sharing of resources, professional development, and economic development—all of which would improve the quality of education for all students in Colorado's K-12 education system.

Eagle-Net is

- Building a statewide, middle-mile, high-speed broadband network that will connect all school districts and BOCES in more than 170 Colorado communities
- Offering local carriers a choice for middle-mile network access at a lower cost
- Creating a robust redundant system that complements and enhances existing infrastructure—a necessity to ensure network reliability
- Governed by a board of representatives from across the state (a public-private alliance board)

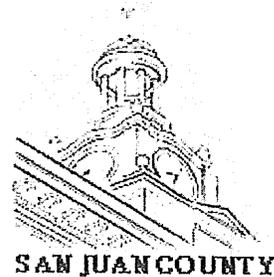
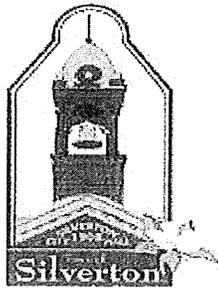
In the interests of improving educational opportunities throughout Colorado, I strongly encourage you to support the Eagle-Net Alliance Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy A. Lange", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Troy A. Lange  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Mark Udall, Representative Michael Coffman, Representative Diana DeGette, Representative Corey Gardner, Representative Doug Lamborn, Representative Jared Polis, Representative Ed Perlmutter, Representative Scott Tipton, Executive Director Dale McCall of the Colorado BOCES Association, Eagle-Net CEO Randy Zila



Eagle-Net Alliance  
Attn: Randy Zila, Chief Executive Officer  
11800 Ridge Parkway, Suite 450  
Broomfield, CO. 80021

September 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Zila –

Thank you for your timely return correspondence to us dated August 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, much appreciation to Chip White and Gretchen Dirks individually for visiting with us here in Silverton on September 5<sup>th</sup> and to the Eagle-Net Alliance (“ENA”) in general for removing any ambiguities with respect to Eagle Net’s intention to complete a fiber optic build to Silverton. We appreciate the definitive signs of progress and the answers to our specific questions and concerns, and greatly value the fact that you took these inquiries to heart as demonstrated in your detailed response. As you know, we have long advocated tirelessly for the installation of a fiber optic line to Silverton. As the last county seat in the State of Colorado without a fiber link, we have pushed, prodded, cajoled, harassed, and begged for various governmental and private entities to bring a fiber optic line into our community. In our 12 years of advocacy work, Eagle-Net is the only entity that has come forth with both a vision and the funding for a viable solution to our long standing telecommunications quagmire.

It is deeply reassuring that in response to the concerns and questions raised in our letter, Eagle-Net has reaffirmed its commitment to bringing a fiber line to the Silverton School and by association, the Silverton community. In support of that end, we appreciate your offer to keep us apprised of all relevant developments toward project completion including the execution of necessary contracts, acquisition of required permits, et cetera. In order to assist us all in that information-sharing process, please note that our designated local technology planning team, Operation Link-Up, meets regularly at 8:30 am on the second Tuesday of each month in the Silverton Town Hall. We would like extend a standing invitation for an ENA representative to attend or participate in that monthly meeting so as to report on any relevant progress. We feel that such participation will allow us respond from a more informed perspective to any further concerns we might receive from outside interests while also allowing for a productive collaboration process between us from a planning standpoint.

As you well know – and as Mr. White and Ms. Dirks observed personally upon their recent visit to Town – the community has acted with what it believes to be reasonable reliance on ENA’s impending fiber build as it has undertaken state-of-the-art improvements to the school’s communications systems, which are now capable providing 10 gigabyte broadband-based educational services. But such services are possible only via a presently-lacking, ground-based connection to the outside world. With ENA having pledged to establish such a connection, the school will be able to actually employ the tools it provided for itself in anticipation of the ENA project completion.

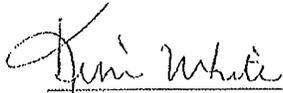
In similar fashion through joint participation in the Southwest Colorado Open Access Network (“SCAN”) project, the Town and County have dedicated significant financial and human resources to the construction of an inter-community fiber optic ring meant to connect all public facilities in town. In the course of committing their respective grant match amounts to this state Department of Local Affairs-funded enterprise, the Town and County have continued to operate under the assumption that this local fiber ring would not exist in a technological void. Rather, the respective governments have acted on the basis of ENA’s repeated assurances that this locally funded asset would be connected to a regional fiber optic extension that ENA has pledged to extend northward up the U.S. 550 corridor at least to Silverton if not beyond.

Please note that notwithstanding the long-awaited benefits an ENA fiber connection will confer upon us as a County, a county seat, and a school district, we have always maintained – and we will continue to maintain – that the completion of these improvements represents far more than merely a large step toward the solution to the Silverton-San Juan County technological divide. Rather, we and other leaders in our surrounding communities feel that this build represents a crucial undertaking in shoring up the entire region’s economic development potential, all along the U.S. 50/550 corridor from Durango to Grand Junction. On behalf of not only the local residents we represent here in Silverton, but for those business interests and residents all along this vastly underserved corridor, we are once again thankful for the enhanced connectivity ENA promises for the region on a collective basis. All of southwest Colorado spoke through the Governor’s Bottom-Up Economic Development Plan process of the need to expand broadband access throughout underserved areas in the region and we see ENA responding to that universal plea through its completion of this component of its larger statewide network creation.

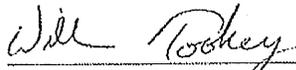
So again, while we are sure a myriad of unanswered questions and host of logistical and technical complications remain, we would like to continue to offer our unyielding support to Eagle Net in whatever form that may take as your organization continues in good faith to move forward with bringing expanded connectivity to our community and broader region. We sense that we are as close to a solution as we have ever been given Eagle Net’s recent assurances to us and have confidence that your goal to link every school district in the state with a fiber connection is sincere. On our end, know that Operation Link Up’s persisting goal is to bring fiber optics to our school and other public-sector facilities through whatever means feasible and reasonable. With that in mind, if ENA’s solution involves the installation of fiber from the south alone, trust that Link-Up will remain committed to closing the gap between Silverton and Ouray to the north thereby providing a seamless fiber path along this portion of the Western Slope in order to level our area’s playing field with respect to both educational opportunities and economic development potential.

We appreciate that you have taken on the challenge of providing a solution that no one else has been willing or able to do. We look forward to a successful 2013 fiber build and remain ready to help problem-solve in whatever manner we can.

Most Sincerely,



Kim White, Superintendent  
Silverton School District



William Tookey  
San Juan County Administrator



Jason S. Wells  
Silverton Administrator

CC: Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Representative Greg Walden, Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee  
Representative Terry Lee, Communications Subcommittee  
Jonathon Adelstein, RUS Administrator  
Jessica Zufolo, RUS Deputy Administrator  
Tom Yennerell, Chairman of the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
Congressman Scott Tipton Gardner  
Senator Mark Udall  
Senator Michael Bennet



Representative Scott Tipton  
835 E. Second Avenue, Suite 230  
Durango, CO 81301

Representative Mike Coffman  
1222 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Cory Gardner  
213 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Doug Lamborn  
437 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2012

Dear Congressmen,

We are writing to you in response to your joint letter dated September 17<sup>th</sup> and directed to National Telecommunications & Information Administration (“NTIA”) Administrator, Lawrence E. Strickling. In this communication, you collectively called for an immediate halt to telecommunications build-out efforts currently underway across the State of Colorado through the NTIA-funded Eagle-Net Alliance (“ENA”) project. In light of this request, we wish to advise you of our opposition to such extreme measures and of our general support for ENA’s organizational mandate to bring enhanced telecommunications abilities to unserved and underserved areas such as ours.

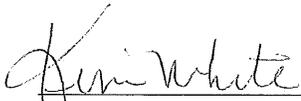
Insofar as ENA has expressed its intent to complete a fiber optic build to our community where the entirety our communications systems has long subsisted via only a tenuous microwave link to the greater world, we feel that ENA’s plans to complete this connection northward up the U.S. 550 corridor will not only serve the primary objective of affording our school system the use of much needed 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology, but also the secondary effect of providing our entire region with the infrastructure it needs to expand economically in these challenging times. We thus feel that any cessation of ENA’s progress in Southwest Colorado would necessarily dampen the prospects of positive growth in the region, thus placing us at a distinct economic disadvantage as other states and nations continue to build out their telecommunications networks in such a manner as to afford interests in both the public and private sectors crucial opportunities to succeed and aptly serve their constituencies in the global marketplace.

We recognize that ENA has suffered wide criticism for purportedly not focusing resources more acutely in the most technologically disadvantaged areas of the state and we stand firmly with our other underserved mountain communities in calling for the organization to use this federal grant award as an opportunity to deliver state-of-the-art connectivity where the private sector has failed to do so. But we

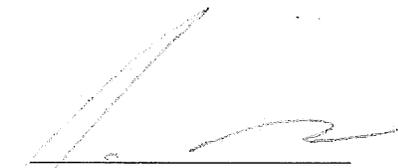
feel that putting ENA's expansion plans "on hold," as you have called for, while the Department of Commerce undertakes an exhaustive audit of the program would be not only wasteful and inefficient, but counterproductive as such a measure would undoubtedly depress both the educational opportunities ENA seeks to afford as well as the secondary economic benefits that might be realized via a strong and redundant fiber connection from Durango to Grand Junction.

Though this build may not completely close what we have come to call the "Silverton Gap," its completion would mark a substantial step in that direction and stands to serve as a tremendous success story in one part of rural, underserved Colorado. We thus view any attempt to subvert this effort and those in other underserved communities across the state as an impediment to our respective abilities to compete both educationally and commercially on a technologically even playing field. So again, we object here to your call to put the ENA project on hold and will continue to oppose to any efforts to curtail what we view as substantial progress in the realm of telecommunications advancement. We hope that in response to this plea, you will take our firm and united position under strong advisement as you continue to scrutinize the ENA build-out.

Most Earnestly,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim White, Superintendent  
Silverton School District

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Tookey  
San Juan County Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason S. Wells  
Silverton Administrator

CC: U.S. Senator Mark Udall  
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet  
U.S. Representative Diana DeGette  
U.S. Representative Jared Polis  
U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter  
Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
Representative Greg Walden, Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee  
Representative Terry Lee, Communications Subcommittee  
Jonathon Adelstein, RUS Administrator  
Jessica Zufolo, RUS Deputy Administrator  
Tom Yennerell, Chairman of the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments