

Montana State Senate



The Big Sky Country

SENATOR JERRY W. BLACK
SENATE DISTRICT 14

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November 30, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Broadband Stimulus

Dear Sirs:

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of my more than 10,000 constituents in North Central Montana comprising the counties of Pondera, Glacier, Toole, Liberty and Chouteau County.

I am also writing in support of the letters you received from the Montana Public Service Commission, The Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems (MITS), the Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA), VisionNet and many others who have expressed great concern and strong recommendations that you do not approve funding for Bresnan Communication's application for ARRA broadband funding in Montana.

I wholeheartedly support the agencies, organizations and companies referenced above who have spelled out in great detail the flaws in the Bresnan application and with all due respect, Governor Schweitzer's white paper.

It is inconceivable that we would use tax payer dollars to build overlaying broadband infrastructure where there is now existing broadband infrastructure. Any job gained would be lost by those companies now providing and building broadband service.

Please understand that I do support ARRA Broadband Stimulus funding, but not in this specific manner. I feel it would be best granted to those independent rural cooperatives that are current providers who have applied and need to expand or upgrade their facilities and will provide last mile broadband services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Black".

Jerry Black

Senate District 14

Chairman, Senate Energy & Telecommunications Commission

Cc:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman PSC

Bonnie Lorang, MITS

Geoff Feiss, MTA

Governor Brian Schweitzer

1) The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 1401 Constitution Avenue NW
 Washington DC 20230

2) The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue SW
 Washington DC 20250

3) Ian Martinez
 Senior Advisor and Director of Outreach
 BTOP Program National Telecommunications and Information Administration
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 1401 Constitution Avenue NW
 Washington DC 20230

*This letter
 sent to all 3
 Jerry*

RECEIVED
 DEC 07 2009

BY: