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GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 26, 2009

Ms. Sharon Gillett
Director
Massachusetts Broadband Institute
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

Dear Ms. Gillett:

As you know, on August 4, 2008, I signed into law Chapter 231 of the Acts of 2008, *An Act Establishing and Funding the Massachusetts Broadband Institute* (MBI). Through this Act, the Massachusetts Legislature and I chartered the MBI with “assessing and improving broadband access conditions” in the Commonwealth. I am aware that the MBI has already begun a mapping project to assess broadband availability in western Massachusetts communities with no or partial coverage, with results expected this summer.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed by the 111th Congress on February 17, 2009, appropriated up to \$350 million to fund the provisions of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA), passed by the 110th Congress on October 10, 2008 (Public Law No: 110-385). Funding will be made available under the BDIA to support State-led efforts to improve the quality and usefulness of broadband data. Section 106 of the BDIA directs the United States Department of Commerce to award competitive matching grants to “eligible entities for the development and implementation of statewide initiatives to identify and track the availability and adoption of broadband services within each State.”

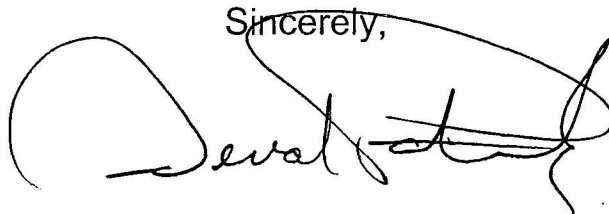
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Eligible entities can include non-profits, municipalities, certain independent agencies, or state agencies or instrumentalities to track broadband availability and adoption within each state. However, the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program can award grants only to a single entity designated by each state as its partner for broadband data improvement.

The MBI's statutory mission and leadership on broadband mapping are entirely consistent with the goals of Section 106 of the BDIA. Furthermore, the MBI, as a division of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, a public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, qualifies as an "eligible entity" to apply for and receive BDIA funding. Therefore, I intend to designate the Massachusetts Broadband Institute as the single eligible entity for receipt of BDIA Broadband Data and Development Grants in Massachusetts.

I eagerly await the release of federal rule and guidelines that will govern the process for making such a designation. I also look forward to the MBI's receipt of BDIA Broadband Data and Development grant funds once the federal program is fully operational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over the word "Sincerely,".

cc: The Honorable Gary Locke
Ms. Anna Gomez