

United States Senate

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October 22, 2009

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Administrator
Rural Utilities Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator Adelstein:

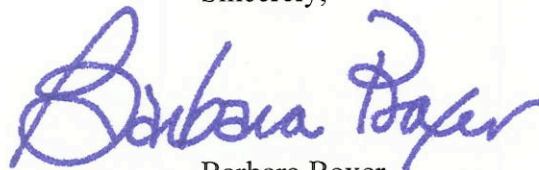
It is my understanding that efforts are currently underway to bring high-speed Internet access to rural areas on the North Coast of California. This region, which includes Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties, is rich in natural resources and yet is home to some of the most economically disadvantaged communities in California.

The current recession has caused sustained hardship for rural communities in California and across the country. While the unemployment rate is currently about 9.8 percent nationally, in Mendocino County it is 10.4 percent, in Humboldt County it is 11.3 percent, and in Del Norte County it recently reached 12.6 percent.

The lack of adequate broadband service in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties compounds an already difficult economic reality, making it difficult for residents to find and apply for jobs, access information, and communicate in a timely and cost effective manner. Providing broadband telecommunications to rural communities will result in short term job creation, and the potential for long term economic development.

I am writing to express my support for thoughtful, well-developed efforts to bring broadband service to the North Coast of California. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Megan Miller in my San Francisco office at (415) 403-0105. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator