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To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Subject: Rural Broadband Development Comments
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As a dedicated broadband development company focused primarily on providing increased high speed Internet access within Maine, our company is extremely familiar with the challenges of deploying infrastructure to extend broadband to rural, low population areas, and increasingly to economically disadvantaged families.

Historically, the challenge has been a huge gap in the economic viability of broadband projects to cover large geographic areas with low populations using traditional wired infrastructure including copper wire telephone, cable, or fiber optic lines. Infrastructure projects have not attracted the level of public financial support due to their extremely poor cost/benefit ratio. In addition, previous generation wireless efforts have had limited success due to line of sight (LOS) limitations resulting in failures to provide adequate coverage. Therefore, there have really been no reasonable solutions to this problem up to this point, awaiting a new dramatically more cost effective and coverage efficient solution.

A powerful next generation wireless technology, operating on FCC licensed spectrum, is the ideal solution for the following 6 reasons:

1. Increased ability to provide 100% access within coverage area
2. Strong reliable signal
3. Performance which meets the 2015 Revised FCC Broadband Definition for Speed (Minimum 25 Mbps download, and 3 Mbps upload)
4. Performance which meets the 2015 Connect ME Authority Broadband Definition for Speed (Minimum 10 Mbps download, and 10 Mbps upload)
5. Network can be deployed in months vs. decades for traditional wired solutions
6. Costs 90% less to deploy than traditional wired alternative solutions.

Redzone wireless is actively engaged in a statewide initiative across the State of Maine to provide coverage to over 90% of the population using 4G LTE Advanced technology operating on the FCC licensed EBS spectrum accessed through a long term lease with the University of Maine System. Currently, more than 75% of the state's access does not meet the 2015 broadband standards established by the FCC and Connect ME Authority.

The company has further engaged the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to secure loan insurance to help fund deployment of the first 25% of coverage. In less than three years, Redzone could finish the job and connect all of Maine. This project requires public policy assistance and some grant support for particularly rural areas.

Federal and state assistance in a variety of forms would make the completion of this project a reality. Possible forms of public assistance are needed in the following areas:

1. Access to existing fiber connected telecommunications towers (federal and state-owned)
2. Financial grant supplements to support transmission equipment capital expense in the lowest density regions
3. Subsidized monthly broadband access fees for qualifying businesses and residents for a predetermined time period.

A next generation 4G LTE Advanced wireless broadband network operating on FCC licensed EBS spectrum is a game-changing technological innovation and approach to the challenge of improving broadband access in rural areas.

Thank you for considering these and other ways to support progress in meeting our shared objectives to expand rural broadband.

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