



# New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Luciano "Lucky" Varela  
New Mexico State Representative  
1709 Callejon Zenaida  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Representative Varela:

As chair of the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee, I am writing to urge you to maximize the utility of the general obligation bond bill by dedicating \$10,000,000 of the state's capital project resources to broadband infrastructure development. A measure to proactively forge public sector broadband network connections would stimulate economic development and promote opportunities for economic parity in the state.

Relying on the private sector for telecommunications services necessarily leaves undeveloped vast swaths of the state where that service provision is not commercially profitable. As a result, many segments of New Mexico's population lack key links to connectivity. With technological advances increasingly driving our economic development and educational and professional mobility, these bystanders to the modern age will grow more alienated from participation in our economy and society if the state does not engage in the critical mission of making New Mexico's broadband infrastructure robust.

Lawmakers are strategically poised to endow this mission. Several of New Mexico's higher education institutions are already working with communities to improve New Mexico's public broadband network. Those universities collaborate with public utilities and commercial providers to promote network access. Increasing the general obligation bond funding to those institutions would allow them to expand the scale of their efforts and invest in new broadband infrastructure for unserved and underserved areas in the state.

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I ask you to make broadband infrastructure a highlight of your capital planning efforts to meet the current and increasing demand for network access. General obligation bonding for broadband infrastructure will drive the state's educational and economic competitiveness and progress.

Sincerely,



PATRICIA A. LUNDSTROM  
State Representative, District 9  
Chair, New Mexico Finance Authority  
Oversight Committee

cc: Representative W. Ken Martinez, Speaker of the House  
Linda M. Kehoe, Principal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee  
New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee Members

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