



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

October 9, 2009

The Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

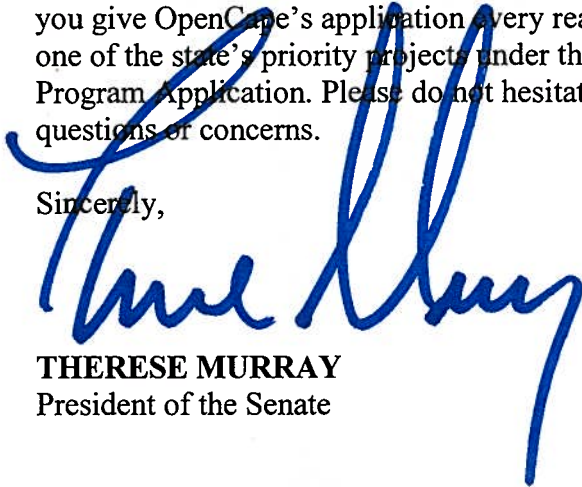
We write today in support of OpenCape's grant request to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for \$32 million. This project will bring much needed middle mile infrastructure to Cape Cod, the Islands, and Southeastern Massachusetts and we ask that the Commonwealth identify the project as one its key priorities in its response to NTIA's BTOP review.

Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Islands need ubiquitous, reliable, redundant, and cost competitive telecommunications infrastructure to support economic sustainability and competitiveness. The region seeks to create the necessary underpinning technology infrastructure to support the growth of its innovation sector and its entrepreneurial culture. In addition, the OpenCape network will support expansion of services into other communities of the South Coast, such as Fall River and New Bedford, where unemployment is nearly 15 percent.

OpenCape is a direct investment in our communities. As State Legislators from Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod, this investment is critical to our constituents. It will assist our urban areas seeking to address high unemployment and re-visioning, and our rural areas grappling with under-employment, lack of opportunity, and economic displacement. As local aid decreases with our ever tightening state-budget, this project will enable our municipalities to deploy cost-effective regional services while additionally providing back-up services for public safety and emergency communications and reliable expansion and growth opportunities for business. Regional umbrella service models for towns and school districts in the region are not possible without the creation of the OpenCape network.

Our districts need and want the capabilities and opportunities afforded by a robust digital infrastructure and have demonstrated their commitment by already securing \$8 million in matching funds from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (\$5 million), RCN Metro Optical Networks (\$2 million), and the County of Barnstable (\$1 million). We ask that you give OpenCape's application every reasonable consideration and ultimately list it as one of the state's priority projects under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Grant Program Application. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



THERESE MURRAY
President of the Senate



ROBERT A. O'LEARY
State Senator
Cape and Islands District



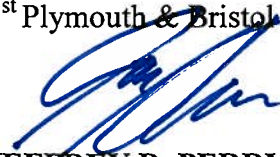
JOAN M. MENARD
State Senator
1st Bristol & Plymouth District



MARC R. PACHECO
State Senator
1st Plymouth & Bristol



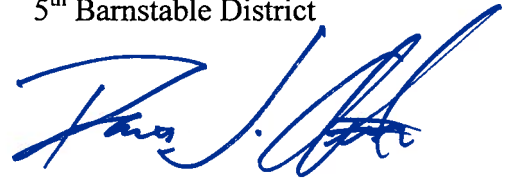
SARAH K. PEAKE
House of Representatives
4th Barnstable District



JEFFREY D. PERRY
House of Representatives
5th Barnstable District



CLEON H. TURNER
House of Representatives
1st Barnstable District



DEMETRIUS J. ATSALIS
House of Representatives
2nd Barnstable District



TIMOTHY R. MADDEN
House of Representatives
Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket District



MATTHEW C. PATRICK
House of Representatives
3rd Barnstable District