

KENT CONRAD  
NORTH DAKOTA

website: <http://conrad.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET, CHAIRMAN  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

August 14, 2009

1-800-773-4657

530 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403  
(202) 224-2043

220 EAST ROSEBURY AVENUE, ROOM 228  
BISMARCK, ND 58501-3886  
(701) 265-4648

657 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 300  
FARGO, ND 58102-4727  
(701) 232-0030

102 NORTH 4TH STREET, SUITE 104  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58203-3738  
(701) 775-3601

180 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105  
MINOT, ND 58701-3848  
(701) 852-0703

Administrator Jonathan Adelstein  
Rural Utilities Services  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrators Adelstein and Strickling:

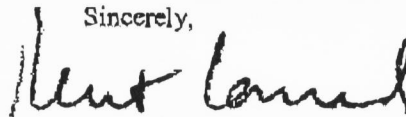
It is a pleasure to write to you to express my support for the broadband stimulus funding application of Flow Mobile of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Broadband Internet access is vital to communities' education and healthcare systems, and can promote business and economic growth. While the number of households with access to high-speed Internet has dramatically increased in recent years, a growing "digital divide" between rural and urban areas has begun to appear. That can have serious consequences for rural communities.

I was proud that Congress provided \$7.2 billion in funding for broadband deployment loans and grants in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is clear that the Congressional intent for this funding was to use it to extend broadband service to underserved and unserved areas throughout the country. Broadband Internet service helps to improve the economic vitality of rural areas and increases opportunities for disadvantaged populations, including low-income families and farm families.

Flow Mobile seeks stimulus funding to deploy and operate a state-wide mobile broadband network to provide service to the public safety community, community colleges and universities, and more than 150,000 North Dakota residential and business customers that are either un- or under-served. In my view, broadband development like what Flow Mobile proposes is exactly what ARRA was meant to fund. I appreciate you giving their application full consideration.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate