

# Public Comments in Support of Connected Nation



Connected Nation works on the ground every day with the people of America who are fighting to enhance the lives of their children and improve their communities. These Americans who work directly with Connected Nation have a lot to say. These countless testimonials have always been loudly voiced within local communities, but until recently, these stories were not heard on a national level.

Over the course of the past year, through federal proceedings within the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture, a resounding wave of grassroots support for Connected Nation and its programs has permeated the public record. State and local officials, non-profit community organizations, and Connected Nation's partners such as the Communications Workers of America and the United States Chamber of Commerce have spoken up to support and defend the work of Connected Nation through the hard facts on the ground.

These testimonials tell the real stories of Connected Nation – how Americans' lives are transformed when the public and private sectors pull together in constructive ways to work for meaningful change.



## STATEMENTS FROM STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### **GOVERNOR PHIL BREDESEN, STATE OF TENNESSEE<sup>1</sup>**

“Connected Tennessee has been active in the State of Tennessee since 2006 working to bring broadband availability to all Tennesseans and using innovative techniques to ensure that more and more citizens of the Volunteer State every day realize the benefits of broadband adoption. Pursuant to P.L. 110-385, the Broadband Data Improvement Act, [...] the State of Tennessee hereby designates Connected Tennessee as the single eligible entity in Tennessee to receive a grant under the State Broadband Data & Development Grant Program. [...] Since the start of our initiative, we have seen concrete and positive benefits, including home broadband adoption growth of 26% compared to an estimated 15% growth nationally. [...] Broadband adoption among low-income minorities grew by 90% within the first year of Connected Tennessee’s work.”

### **GOVERNOR TED STRICKLAND, STATE OF OHIO<sup>2</sup>**

“I understand that the Federal Communications Commission is considering its role in the process of mapping broadband infrastructure. [...] I urge you to work with, facilitate, and encourage public-private partnerships like Connect Ohio. These programs are taking hold and proving to be an effective method of achieving the goal of ubiquitous broadband that we share. [...] Connect Ohio’s state-based broadband maps are critical to the program’s success. The accuracy and usefulness of these maps depend upon our ability to work with broadband providers, community leaders, and consumers through a collaborative process whereby we help each other build, verify, and update the maps. A federal program that works with and supports state-based broadband mapping through public-private partnerships would be a solutions-oriented approach to national broadband mapping.”

### **DIANE WELLS, MANAGER TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<sup>3</sup>**

“In February of this year, Connected Nation provided to the State web-based maps of broadband availability in Minnesota, displaying broadband service in a searchable and verifiable format, down to the household level. [...] As a result, the State of Minnesota now has an invaluable set of tools for identifying unserved and underserved households in our state, understanding why households are still unserved, and developing specific policies to promote expansion of the broadband market to ensure all Minnesota residents have access to broadband. The State selected Connected Nation as a result of the company’s innovative model that works on behalf of the State to develop high quality and verifiable products. Further, the State of Minnesota decided that Connected Nation’s approach to mapping, based on voluntary collaboration with the provider community, is the most expedient and effective way to produce this important policy tool. Now having this tool in hand to inform our public policy, we are confident we made the correct choice. Connected Nation and Connect Minnesota have been excellent partners for Minnesota. As you develop a plan for mapping broadband availability across the United States, we invite and encourage you to look closely at

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1 Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/7A24.pdf>

2 Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008

[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520064914](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520064914)

3 Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/790C.pdf>

Minnesota's broadband mapping process. We believe you will find an excellent model for mapping broadband availability in such a way that is transparent, verifiable, continuously updated, and perhaps most importantly, practical and valuable for identifying those unserved and underserved areas of Minnesota."

**MARK DAVID GOSS, CHAIRMAN, KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (2004 – 2008)<sup>4</sup>**

"The most visible and talked-about element of the ConnectKentucky initiative is its effective broadband mapping process, and it is understandable that both the Federal Communications Commission and Congress are seeking methods to build upon this program and the many success stories generated in communities across the Commonwealth as a result of ConnectKentucky's work. [...] ConnectKentucky's mapping effort was preceded by years of research and discussions with state agencies, local officials, economic development organizations, business leaders, consumers, and broadband providers. Their statistical surveys and this constructive dialogue culminated in a collaborative approach to broadband expansion which has been broadly supported by Kentucky government at all levels. [...] ConnectKentucky has proven that the data obtained through a collaborative approach is much more accurate than what could be achieved through government regulation. And ironically, the public-private partnership structure itself enables a much greater level of transparency than what government could provide to consumers. It is critical to remember that the preliminary technical network data that ConnectKentucky originally receives from broadband providers is meaningless to consumers. The real value in ConnectKentucky's mapping program is not even that it gets around the proprietary issues involved with the provider data, but rather in ConnectKentucky's work in the field with broadband providers to gather the data necessary for the map, then translate it into GIS format, and finally represent the data in the most public and transparent of formats so that the consumer can be the ultimate judge of the data. [...] While the Kentucky Commission fields around 100 calls per year from consumers who want to help correct the map or who want broadband and can't get it, ConnectKentucky fields hundreds of calls each month from these same consumers, and this verification system results in a map of broadband availability that is open access with interactive data that is readily verifiable for *consumers themselves*."

**SAMUEL ORTH, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, STATE OF OHIO<sup>5</sup>**

"Ohio has made a significant investment to establish our Connect Ohio program. Through those efforts, we now have up-to-date broadband availability mapping and research on broadband adoption and use available to support the prioritization of broadband funding opportunities in Ohio. [...] Through its Connect Ohio program, the State of Ohio has gathered significant, meaningful data about barriers to broadband adoption. [...] Programs such as Connect Ohio have been created to research and target broadband availability and adoption in states provide a useful model for fulfilling the requirements of PL 110-385. [...] Through its Connect Ohio initiative to benchmark broadband availability through mapping, the State of Ohio has identified areas that remain without access to broadband service, where terrestrial broadband service is defined as offering download speeds of 768K or greater. These areas represent approximately 5.2% of households in Ohio, and over 37% of its geographical areas."

4 Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520038658](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520038658)

5 Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=F13ABEAE-EB1C-4CBB-9F78-DD14B663564A>

**PAT MILLER, SENIOR ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PHIL BREDESEN, TN<sup>6</sup>**

“Two years ago, the state of Tennessee had reached a crossroads. Our state’s leaders had to find a way to ensure that all Tennesseans have access to quality broadband service; however, we had no mechanism to identify the broadband gaps. At that time, I was director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. We seemingly had two options - 1. Regulate broadband providers further through a state mandated data collection process, or 2. Find a way to work with providers to create a broadband map. [...] Today, I am both proud and grateful to report that Tennessee chose the cooperative route to broadband expansion. Through his Trail to Innovation, Governor Bredesen worked in collaboration with the Tennessee Broadband Taskforce to establish Connected Tennessee as a public-private partnership to expand statewide broadband access and use. Tennessee now has a complete and accurate broadband map that is continuously updated down to the street and household level. In just the first six months of the Connected Tennessee program, broadband adoption has increased in rural areas of the state. Statewide, Tennessee’s broadband growth has exceeded the national growth rate. Computer ownership among Tennesseans is significantly higher after only six months, and our businesses - particularly small businesses - are using broadband at significantly higher rates. As you contemplate broadband mapping for the rest of the nation, I can appreciate the challenge that lay before you. [...] The good news is that there is a highly effective and proven way to achieve this goal - by working cooperatively with broadband providers through state public-private partnerships. [...] I encourage the Commission to use this proven public-private partnership model for broadband mapping and expansion.”

**CITY COUNCILMAN KEVIN KRAMER, LOUISVILLE, KY<sup>7</sup>**

“I have been very impressed with the work and accomplishments of the Connected Nation organization to improve broadband data, deployment, and adoption in Kentucky and, in particular, Louisville. Recent studies show that a digital divide exists. [...] This digital divide, however, does not only affect rural areas. Urban areas like Louisville experience the same problem of low technology adoption which prevents many benefits of broadband from penetrating to our disadvantaged citizens. Connected Nation’s model takes into account this fact. Their model, in particular the granular broadband availability mapping of Jefferson County that is updated on a regular basis, and their Computer 4 Kids program have combined to be the right tools and partners we local officials need to create rapid positive results. [...] As a member of the National League of Cities Information, Technology, and Steering Committee, I am very aware of the importance of technology and its role in improving the lives of underprivileged populations. Connected Nation’s work in Louisville will improve computer literacy and education for area students. I am proud to be one of their many supporters.”

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6      Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520169099](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520169099)

7      Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520067491](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520067491)

**TENNESSEE BROADBAND TASK FORCE<sup>8</sup>**

“One of the early actions of the TBTF was to recommend contracting with Connected Nation to conduct mapping of broadband and implementation of strategies designed to enhance awareness and increase adoption of broadband services in our state. [...] Tennessee has the publicly funded Connected Tennessee program, which provides specific information on the deployment and adoption of broadband. The information made available by Connected Tennessee will allow for more effective allocation of stimulus funds by our state government.”

**JUDGE EXECUTIVE HENRY BERTRAM, PENDLETON COUNTY, KY<sup>9</sup>**

“Three years ago, ConnectKentucky reached out to me and helped me pull together a team of local community leaders, and together we developed an action plan for not only filling our broadband gaps, but also for creating effective broadband applications to enable citizen services, and for generating awareness about the benefits of broadband to increase the actual use of these services. I am proud to say that this effort has been extremely successful. ConnectKentucky helped us identify a small broadband provider, Blue One, whose technology and business model fits our rural market. Blue One partnered with the Pendleton County Fiscal Court to deploy an extensive wireless network to our rural residents who had nothing but dialup. [...] But there is an important part of this story that never gets told – none of this would have been possible without ConnectKentucky’s broadband maps and on-site work to make sure these maps are complete and useful. The ConnectKentucky folks get out in the mud with locals and service providers to understand exactly which homes have broadband available and which do not – and these maps are always up-to-date on their website for everyone to use. These maps allowed us to pinpoint the areas where broadband service was not available – and the areas where broadband service would not be available anytime soon. The maps also allowed us to target our public funds for broadband deployment in those areas where it was most needed. Without the ConnectKentucky maps and the work of ConnectKentucky staff in the field to keep the maps current and accurate, Pendleton County would never had had the tools to develop our network, and we would very likely still have more than half of our residents without broadband. [...] As you contemplate this process, I urge you to leave broadband mapping in the hands of public-private partnerships such as ConnectKentucky. Many government entities have tried, and failed, to produce accurate and comprehensive broadband availability maps.”

**KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TN<sup>10</sup>**

“Led by Governor Phil Bredesen, Connected Tennessee is a public-private partnership that brings together state and local government, community organizations, business leaders, libraries, schools, healthcare institutions and technology providers in an effort to work in every Tennessee county to ensure better broadband access and computer literacy. [...] As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act, please make every effort to ensure that Connected Tennessee and its Computers 4 Kids program is eligible for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.”

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8 Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/7A1B.pdf>

9 Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008

[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520034883](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520034883)

10 Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=FF43F84E-FE92-4BF7-A024-D3ED2C492097>

**MAYOR DENNIS ATHA, CITY OF MONTEREY, KY<sup>11</sup>**

“I have seen Monterey, Kentucky go from dial-up to broadband within the last year. [...] We would probably still be on dial-up if it weren't for ConnectKentucky bringing us together with Southeast Telephone to build support and find funds for broadband infrastructure. It has recently come to my attention that ConnectKentucky has been accused of being “dominated” by incumbent telephone companies and that the ConnectKentucky maps are not accurate. I speak from direct experience when I tell you that these claims are false and entirely unfounded. [...] The broadband provider which was identified by ConnectKentucky to best serve Monterey is *not an* incumbent telephone company, but is a competitive local exchange carrier, Southeast Telephone, which works to serve Kentucky's rural areas. This company is just one of the many small, local broadband providers that ConnectKentucky works with in our region and across the state to ensure all citizens have access to broadband.

In regard to ConnectKentucky's maps – [...] ConnectKentucky has achieved what no one else could do - it brought together all the right players and invested significant resources to map broadband availability in a comprehensive and accurate fashion. I saw firsthand how the process works –ConnectKentucky works with providers - big and small - to gather information on where broadband service exists, and then they work with local communities, businesses, and citizens to make sure the map is correct. [...] To say that these maps are not transparent or not useful is an injustice - and is utterly ridiculous. This process for cooperative mapping is a model that should not only be heralded, but should be used again and again for the rest of America.”

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11      Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520034218](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520034218)

## STATEMENTS FROM GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS

### **CHUCK RILEY, BOARD CHAIRMAN, HOMEWORK CENTRAL, FINDLAY, OH**

“[...] The mission of Homework Central, Inc. is to improve children’s academic achievement by providing a literacy-rich, safe and nurturing environment through one-on-one mentoring relationships with caring teenagers and adults. [...] Connect Ohio, is helping us to add a computer lab to our reading room and life skills activities area. [...] As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and as you develop a national broadband plan for America, I urge you to support and fund programs such as Connect Ohio. [...] Every state should have a program like Connect Ohio.”

### **JITEN SHAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GREEN RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, KY<sup>12</sup>**

“I write to urge you to consider a cooperative, public-private approach to mapping national broadband availability. As director of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) in western Kentucky, I have been part of a remarkable regional project that is now culminating in a broadband wireless network that spans seven rural counties – an area roughly the size of Delaware. This project, named ConnectGRADD, is led by the seven county judge executives of the region, and was undertaken to help bridge the urban-rural digital divide by expanding affordable, high-speed broadband access to our rural residents. [...] ConnectKentucky, provided valuable assistance in helping us develop an RFP for network construction and service provision. Mr. Spann served on a local committee that made the recommendation to our Selection Committee; his knowledge of wireless technology was invaluable in providing the local Judge Executives a level of confidence in the winning proposal. [...] Mr. Spann continued to consult during the contract negotiations with the winning bidders. As you and your colleagues at the FCC work to develop national broadband policies, I encourage you to find creative ways that you could use the ConnectKentucky model.”

### **PAUL VAN HOESEN, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY, INC., TN<sup>13</sup>**

“The Computer 4 Kids® (C4K) program is a worthy and necessary adjunct to drive broadband adoption and enable Tennessee young people to realize the power of the online world.”

### **HAL GOODE, SPRINGFIELD-WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KY<sup>14</sup>**

“I believe it is my duty to give you a first-hand account of the support and assistance that ConnectKentucky has brought to our municipality and the rural citizens of our county. I understand there are allegations that ConnectKentucky does not support municipal broadband projects; however, this is simply untrue. ConnectKentucky worked with us, the Washington Fiscal Court and the City of Springfield, to determine the best solution for expanding broadband into the rural areas of Springfield and Washington County. [...] ConnectKentucky works with local officials and broadband providers in Kentucky to bring the highest bandwidth solutions to each citizen and business. [...] ConnectKentucky listened to our needs and recommended a fixed

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12      Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520034452](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520034452)

13      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=D7AF60B5-78B7-4E4A-9A50-890AC3EBFA93>

14      Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, August 22, 2008  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6520033622](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520033622)

wireless system to bring broadband to our residents and businesses who had nothing but dial-up for the foreseeable future. When we needed a partner in this effort to provide the broadband services, ConnectKentucky introduced us to a wireless Internet service provider, KyWiMax – a small, Kentucky-based company which has developed successful wireless solutions through other projects in Boyle, Lincoln, and Garrard Counties. [...] ConnectKentucky did not charge us for any of this work, of course, because this is part of what they do for local officials throughout our state. [...] As you work to determine the best course for FCC action in mapping broadband availability, I encourage you to develop policies that will encourage public-private partnerships like ConnectKentucky to continue to thrive. These grassroots-led programs not only do an excellent job of mapping broadband availability, but they also provide a tremendous resource to local governments as we work to find information technology solutions for our citizens.”

**JOE T. WOOD, LEXINGTON, TN<sup>15</sup>**

“Creative partnerships should be encouraged to support after school and summer programs and a comprehensive range of career development and workforce development programs. Programs such as the Tennessee Computers for Kids (C4K) should be supported as part of such creative partnerships.”

**YVONNE O. MYERS, DIRECTOR, MARTINS FERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARTINS FERRY, OH<sup>16</sup>**

“As a Director of a public library system, I am writing to convey the importance of the Connect Ohio partnership and its No Child Left Offline program. [...] Connect Ohio is a public-private partnership [...] work[ing] in every county across Ohio for better broadband access and computer literacy. [...] Our libraries are busier than ever, even with reduced hours due to lower funding levels as a result of the depressed economy, and our area could use some new computers to assist all our patrons, many of who cannot afford access or computers and the supplies necessary to use them. This Appalachian Region is truly suffering economically.”

**MIKE RIDENOUR, VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, KY<sup>17</sup>**

“I am writing to convey the importance of the ConnectKentucky partnership and its Computer 4 Kids program (or eCommunity Leadership Teams, broadband deployment assistance, technology awareness). [...] Through ConnectKentucky’s Computer 4 Kids program, computers are distributed to children who need them most. To date the Computers 4 Kids program has donated over 3100 computers throughout Kentucky. As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act, please make every effort to ensure that ConnectKentucky is eligible for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As we work together toward economic recovery, it is critical that the federal government offer funding and support to existing public-private partnerships which have proven effective in bridging the digital divide.”

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15      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=762CC8CF-A39A-4BD3-BEAF-6935BFB9B7B9>

16      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=B02CD68A-6D1F-4CC1-8DC1-1466AB3C0D9E>

17      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=B20AB33A-0FE6-4AE4-A0AD-AA10131D754E>

**DARYL PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HICKMAN COUNTY ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, TN<sup>18</sup>**

“Connected Tennessee has been an efficient and effective force in increasing broadband and technology availability and utilization in my county as well as across our state.”

**BRENT GRADEN, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF PRESTONBURG, KY<sup>19</sup>**

“[ConnectKentucky’s] affiliated programs such as the Computers 4 Kids program have made a tremendous impact in rural communities. I know for a fact that two rural libraries have just opened their doors in Floyd County due to the generous donations of new computers for these locations.”

**MICHAEL DUNNE, EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, HAMILTON COUNTY, TN<sup>20</sup>**

“Hamilton County is proud to have participated in the [Computers 4 Kids] program [...] Children who were not connected before are now able to utilize the tools and develop the skills that will help them compete for the skilled technical jobs that await them in the next decade. Families will be able to use these computers to look for jobs, to refine skills. Connected Tennessee gives all who use this new opportunity hope.”

**JULIE SCHMIDT, KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION (KET – THE KENTUCKY NETWORK), LOUISVILLE, KY<sup>21</sup>**

“The notion of digital divide has been a huge issue in Kentucky. As the world becomes more connected and broadband connectivity is key to economic vitality, Connect Kentucky has been vital in helping communities and citizens gain access to broadband.”

**JOHN STEPHENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MAURY COUNTY, TN<sup>22</sup>**

“Through Connected Tennessee’s Computers 4 Kids<sup>SM</sup> (C4K) program, computers are distributed to children in Tennessee who need them most. To date, the C4K program has distributed more than 1,300 computers to children, families and organizations in need across Tennessee, with plans to distribute at least 1,700 more over the coming years.”

**DAVID WATKIN, DUNCANVILLE, PA<sup>23</sup>**

“Creative partnerships should be encouraged to support after school and summer programs and a comprehensive range of career development and workforce development programs. Programs such as the Tennessee Computers for Kids (C4K) should be supported as part of such creative partnerships.”

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18      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=E03DAB80-5073-42A0-B7A5-2274EBFB92B4>

19      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=192F0695-AC67-4478-A6F6-36B24C256FB9>

20      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=4CECD25F-2041-4EE2-86EB-04500889A5D6>

21      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=2ECD9961-67A5-438C-8AC8-878B74EA2431>

22      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=D1DD76C1-6AA4-47C4-9826-4A32A8FF8FBB>

23      Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=654586EF-F69B-468D-A813-8E16864D1398>

**KATIE HARBISON, CHILDREN'S HOME/CHAMBLISS SHELTER, TN<sup>24</sup>**

“As a recipient of computer from this program, I would like to stress the importance of the Connected Tennessee partnership and its Computers 4 Kids program. The agency I work for was lucky enough to receive 6 computers which are now serving children in the State foster care system as well as low-income parents who utilize our childcare center.”

Below is a complete list of links to testimonies from local partners of Connected Nation:

[Allen Hale, Assistant District Attorney General, 16th Judicial District](#)

[Betsy Maples, Claiborne County Hospital & Nursing Home](#)

[Bonnie Manning](#)

[Brent Graden, Economic Development for the City of Prestonburg, KY](#)

[Brock Hill, Mayor of Cumberland County, TN](#)

[C. Michael Lay, Scott County Schools](#)

[C. Thomas Robinson, Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Carl Douglas](#)

[Chad Ellis, QuickRelay Networks](#)

[Chuck Riley, Homework Central](#)

[Daryl Chansuthus](#)

[Daryl Phillips, Hickman County Economic & Community Development Association, TN](#)

[David Watkin, Duncansville, PA](#)

[Dick Grayson, Mayor of Johnson County, TN](#)

[Don Cason, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Donald & Joyce Janeway](#)

[Esther Sykes-Wood](#)

[Gary Goff, Roane State Community College](#)

[Jaguar Communications, Inc.](#)

[James Bailey, Jr., Mayor of Maury County, TN](#)

[Jason Evans, Global Entertainment Solutions](#)

[Joe Wood, Lexington \(TN\) City Schools](#)

[John Stephens, The Boys & Girls Club of Maury County, TN](#)

[Julie Schmidt, KET](#)

[Katie Harbison, Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter, TN](#)

[Marilyn Toppins, Union County Public Schools](#)

[Mark & Sissy Crowe](#)

[Mark Hipsher, Mayor of Grainger County, TN](#)

[Michael Dunne, Hamilton County, TN](#)

[Mike Ridenour, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Natalie Seabolt, Tennessee Department of Children's Services](#)

[Paul Van Hoesen, cTechnology, Inc.](#)

[Representative Chad Faulkner, State of Tennessee](#)

[Representative Harry Brooks, State of Tennessee](#)

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Comments to NTIA, April 13th, 2009

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=B0D65CD2-C3FB-4AD7-981A-35C261F9FB0E>

[Representative Jason Mumpower, State of Tennessee](#)

[Rex Lynch, Mayor of Anderson County, TN](#)

[Ricky Keeton, Mayor of Scott County, TN](#)

[Senator Bill Ketron, State of Tennessee](#)

[Senator Jamie Woodson, State of Tennessee](#)

[Senator Jim Tracy, State of Tennessee](#)

[Senator Reginald Tate, State of Tennessee](#)

[Sherry Butler](#)

[Tim Knight, Norris Highlands Agency](#)

[William Baird, Mayor of Campbell County](#)

[Yvonne Myers, Martins Ferry Public Library, OH](#)

## STATEMENTS FROM NATIONAL BROADBAND STAKEHOLDERS

### COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA<sup>25</sup>

“In establishing the rules for the broadband grant programs, CWA recommends the following: [...] Promote broadband mapping by establishing a common format and data standard, encourage states to apply for funds to map broadband availability and capability and support public-private partnerships such as the successful ConnectedNation broadband demand-stimulation initiatives and mapping projects. [...] In designing its broadband data collection program, the NTIA can learn a great deal from successful broadband mapping projects in the states, such as those conducted by the ConnectedNation public-private partnerships in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Minnesota, West Virginia, and South Carolina and the broadband mapping project of the California Broadband Task Force in the state of California.”

### INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE (ITTA)<sup>26</sup>

“A number of states have collected information and produced useful broadband maps and inventories. Working in partnership with public and private entities, Connected Nation, in particular, has worked in a number of states to produce meaningful maps and inventories. An advantage of the public-private partnership model, of which Connected Nation is one example, is the ability to protect proprietary information of the companies, which must be considered in planning the data-gathering effort for the mapping project. The public-private partnership approach is a useful model for national replication.”

### INTEL CORPORATION<sup>27</sup>

“Congress made similar pronouncements regarding the dual objectives of increasing broadband deployment and adoption just six months ago when enacting the BDIA [Broadband Data Improvement Act]. Congress’ findings in that statute provide: ‘The deployment and adoption of broadband technology has resulted in enhanced economic development and public safety for communities across the Nation, improved health care, and educational opportunities, and a better quality of life for all Americans.... Continued progress in the deployment and adoption of broadband technology is vital to ensuring that our Nation remains competitive and continues to create business and job growth.’ [...] Various studies demonstrate that the perceived lack of need for broadband and a lack computer ownership are the top barriers to broadband adoption. For example, Connected Nation reports: ‘[O]ne might expect lack of broadband availability — in other words, the supply side of the problem — to be the top barrier to broadband adoption. Yet, only 19% of rural residents who do not subscribe to broadband service say it is because broadband is not available at their home.... [Rather,] perceived lack of need is the overwhelming barrier to adoption among rural dwellers. Forty-two percent of rural residents without broadband at home say they don’t subscribe because they don’t need it, and 34% of these residents report lack of a computer as the reason they don’t subscribe to broadband.’ Connected Nation further reports that, in a survey of over 3,000 residents in Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky (States with sizable unserved and underserved

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<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/7B44.pdf>

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<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/7B2E.pdf>

communities), approximately 26 percent of households do not have a computer. [...] These points underscore the fact that, '[a]ccess to computers and the difficulty of using the technology are ... barriers to widespread broadband use.' In fact, '[t]he Conferees note the success of [broadband adoption] programs in several States, and hope that ... grantees will be involved in ... demand[-side projects ...], thereby stimulating economic growth and job creation' in ARRA-funded areas. Thus, in order to improve broadband adoption in the U.S., we must increase laptop/PC ownership and improve broadband knowledge among consumers in unserved and underserved areas."

#### **U. S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE<sup>28</sup>**

"Connected Nation, a non-profit that seeks to improve broadband deployment and adoption across the United States, is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that has already proven successful in several states. [...] States now have a clear vehicle to use for developing statewide public-private partnerships that leverage resources within and across every community for effective technology expansion [...] [I]t is important to note that this \$350 million is not just for mapping. The funds are for statewide programs designed to stimulate sustainable broadband adoption at the local level. Funding Connected Nation and similar groups is consistent with the Congressional intent of the BDIA to 'achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer ownership, and broadband use among such citizens and businesses' and 'to establish and empower local grassroots technology teams in each State to plan for improved technology use across multiple community sectors'."

#### **VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS<sup>29</sup>**

"The mapping already being performed by public-private partnerships like Connected Nation provides the best template for such state-level initiatives. These maps – based on a "bottoms-up" approach that combines providers' information about the location of their broadband infrastructure with detailed, on-the-ground knowledge about local terrain, resources, and challenges – provide granular information sufficient to identify unserved areas and to provide additional information useful to numerous stakeholders."

#### **WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS<sup>30</sup>**

"Windstream has found that the best entities to map broadband data are regional public-private partnerships. [...] In particular, Windstream, as one of the largest broadband providers in Kentucky, can speak to the success of the ConnectKentucky model. Over multiple years Windstream has worked closely with ConnectKentucky to refine depictions of its service territory, while a nondisclosure agreement has prevented release of competitively sensitive data. Windstream urges NTIA to support, not supplant, such valuable public-private partnership efforts."

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<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=1C378AD3-574B-41ED-B161-C45F26C24D91>

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<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=F49A6977-9276-4FDD-8E75-C7EB31B40C1D>

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<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comment.cfm?e=EB90C309-627A-4AA8-B973-CB39B93708BC>



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