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Greene County  
Legislature

411 Main Street  
Suite 408  
Catskill, New York 12414

May 25, 2021

Mr. Robert F. Butler, Jr., Supervisor  
Town of Athens  
2 First Street  
Athens, New York 12015

**RE: Greene County Broadband Project**

Dear Supervisor Butler:

Greene County has initiated a broadband and cellular communications project and is working with ECC Technologies, a technology and communications consulting firm. **It is the County's objective to identify every remaining household and business without access to fiber or coaxial broadband service and to formulate a technical solution and its estimated cost to providing service.**

The **First Phase** of the project requires extensive mapping and data collection of existing broadband networks throughout the county. Greene County is currently working with the major broadband providers operating within the county. They have already provided their network systems to us. Years of working with our local broadband providers to access broadband funds through the New York Broadband Program has enabled the partnership necessary to assist the county in this effort.

The information collected is being utilized to develop a high-level budgetary estimate of capital to serve the remaining households and businesses lacking access, which will enable the county in a second project phase to build a business model to secure funding through grant applications such as the USDA ReConnect Grant Program or other means available, such as the American Recovery Plan.



Also included in the *First Phase* of the project is the development of a ***Broadband Availability and Adoption Tool (BAAT) Survey*** to provide residents the opportunity to comment on broadband availability and adoption limitations, as well as identify areas of low take rate, typically a barrier for our local providers to fully build-out to low density roads. A website-landing page has been launched for residents to provide responses to the survey and advertising and marketing will soon begin to make residents aware of the project and the survey. **The website domain name reserved specifically for this survey [www.greenebroadband.com](http://www.greenebroadband.com) will be live starting June 1, 2021.**

Communications with our local elected officials is equally important to the success of the project and your assistance is requested in this effort:

1. Please assist the county in communicating the availability of the ***BAAT Survey*** by placing this link on your website and taking every opportunity to communicate to your residents about the survey;
2. Please inform the county about projects that you may already be working on with our local providers. We are collaborating with Mid-Hudson Cable, State Telephone, Margaretville Telephone, and Charter Communications. They are aware of the project and the on-going survey efforts;
3. If your Town or Village has conducted a broadband project of its own please provide the results to the county, especially identify specific roads that are a priority for build-out.

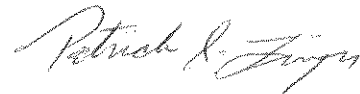
Greene County and our local Internet Service Providers were very successful in driving public funding to support Internet expansion during the three rounds of the New York Broadband Program, with thousands of additional households being served through this investment. The proverbial “last mile” for the remaining households and businesses are proving to be the most expensive and therefore most difficult to serve.

This project is being led by the County’s Office of Economic Development and Planning with the assistance of the County’s Office of Real Property Tax Services and the Office of Emergency Management and Services. Please direct your communications to Warren Hart, Deputy County Administrator, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning at (518-719-3290, [whart@discovergreene.com](mailto:whart@discovergreene.com)).

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**Greene County Broadband Project**

Thank you for your commitment to supporting this important project. Collectively we have a proven record of accomplishment in expanding Internet service, and together we can solve this problem to the benefit of our communities and residents.

Sincerely,



Patrick S. Linger,  
Chairman  
Greene County Legislature

PSL/ts

cc: Greene County Legislature  
Shaun S. Groden, Greene County Administrator  
Warren Hart, Greene County Deputy Administrator