

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 13, 2022

Alan Davidson, Administrator  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Administrator Davidson:

We write to request full and fair consideration for the application submitted by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. If awarded, UMUT will fund three important middle mile routes and complete several fiber rings to provide reliability and resiliency for the region.

The UMUT is focused on key economic development strategies and has received several federal awards for housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, agricultural programs, highway improvements, solar energy projects, and other economic development initiatives since 2015. The UMUT is working to enhance internet connectivity throughout the 600,000-acre patchwork reservation as the need for high-speed internet escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the last two years, the UMUT developed a Comprehensive Broadband Plan, with specific development strategies to construct and expand the infrastructure necessary to support high-speed internet service in the region. NTIA monies will support the construction of middle mile routes and complete several fiber rings to provide reliability and resiliency for the 4-state region-Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

The UMUT application will improve access to abundant and affordable broadband service, a lifeline to improve health, access to telemedicine, educational opportunities, as well as workforce and economic development in the region. We encourage you to give the application submitted by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Thank you for your review, and please notify our respective offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator