

From: [Tracy S. Jensen](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Cc: [Cecilia Aguiar-Curry](#)
Subject: Broadband Opportunity Council
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 2:18:25 PM
Attachments: [Broadband Opportunity Council 6-10-15.doc](#)
[Broadband Opportunity Council Letter.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached please find a WORD version of a letter addressed to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration regarding the creation of the Broadband Opportunity Council. I have also attached a PDF version that has been signed by the Mayor of Winters, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

Thank you,

Tracy Jensen
Management Analyst
City of Winters
318 First St.
Winters, CA 95694
530-794-6702
530-795-4935 - fax



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June 9, 2015

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4626
ATTN: Broadband Opportunity Council
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Mensah and Mr. Strickling,

We would like to thank your administration for addressing the very critical issue of access to broadband through the creation of the Broadband Opportunity Council. It is my pleasure to submit these comments on behalf of the community of Winters, CA and apply to questions posed in the Notice and Request for Comment published in the April 29, 2015 Federal Register. My comments address the following question.

6. What regulatory barriers exist within the agencies of the Executive Branch to the deployment of broadband infrastructure?

Introduction :

Winters is a town of nearly 7,000 residents within the rural county of Yolo. We have deep roots around farming and we have focused and supportive leaders working diligently every day to foster intentional growth to provide opportunities for our young people. Winters is home to Mariani Nut Company, one of the largest nut processing operations in our country. We also have dozens of rich, productive farms and amazing success stories such as Turkovich Family Wines, which is a third generation farming family with young people that crafted their trade in other parts of world and have come home to establish a thriving winery as well as a downtown tasting room.

Despite our proximity to UC Davis, our State Capital and the Silicon Valley, we have limited access to broadband. This hampers our ability to coordinate with technological advances in such mediums as education and health. In addition, limited broadband is a barrier in our ability

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Harold Anderson
Wade Cowan
Pierre Neu

MAYOR

Cecilia Aguiar-
Curry

MAYOR PRO TEM
Woody Fridae

CITY CLERK

Nanci Mills

TREASURER

Michael Sebastian

CITY MANAGER
John W. Donlevy, Jr.

Ms. Mensah and Mr. Strickling
June 9, 2015
Page 2

to locate new business here, support our farmers in food production, and will help to resolve the issues of drought, pest control, inventory management and more.

Major Barrier:

The leadership in Winters continues to explore funding opportunities which would support the creation of infrastructure. The barrier is that all federal grant opportunities have a definition of rural that disallows our application. In many cases, it is our proximity to urban centers that disqualifies our town although the limited access is no less real because our neighbors do not suffer the same problem. There is often a requirement that our population reach a minimum threshold, often 20,000. This does not seem like an appropriate criteria to apply to Yolo County. We specifically drive development to the urban centers in order to preserve valuable land for agriculture.

We strongly urge the federal government to prepare a definition of rural which takes in to consideration the character of a place and not specifically limiting metrics. I thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Mayor, City of Winters



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