



# MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PAUL A. TICHININ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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April 10, 2013

Mitch Drake, Interim CEO  
Golden Bear Broadband LLC

Dear Mitch,

This is a letter of support and endorsement of the Golden Bear Broadband (GBB) LLC as it continues to seek the capital funds to implement comprehensive, cohesive, and diverse broadband capability across Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, and Yolo counties. It is essential to the social and economic survival of the communities it is designed to serve.

GBB LLC's proposed NCRMMI network infrastructure will ensure the availability of not only core government services, public safety, educational and public connectivity but would also be a true catalyst of economic vitality and contribution for this mostly rural region; ensuring not only equity of access to the population, but also enhance contributions to the economic vitality and social development of the State of California.

A consortium of Mendocino County Schools has executed an E-rate agreement with a local provider to finally upgrade the circuits to selected significantly underserved school sites in 2014-2015. This limited broadband connectivity is school-site specific and doesn't purport or ensure ubiquitous broadband access for students in their homes or non-school site places of studying and learning, i.e. libraries, community centers and after-school programs.

New state and federal education initiatives, Common Core, and the nine year old *Williams Settlement* are predicated on equity of digital access for all students. The GBB proposal would enable and ensure home and community access for all students as the authorization of emerging "anytime, anywhere" learning initiatives become a reality.

We must have the opportunity proposed by Golden Bear Broadband LLC to ensure student success and equity of access to 24/7 learning opportunities that are available in city or urban school districts. Current private for-profit vendors are increasing connectivity, but do not address the need for equity of bandwidth and throughput for the rural and remote communities where our students reside.

I urge the California Public Utilities Commission to fund the Golden Bear Broadband LLC project. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Tichinin, Superintendent  
Mendocino County Schools

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