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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

January 07, 2014

City of Point Arena
Planning Commission
451 School Street
Point Arena, CA 95468

Ken McNeely
President of External Affairs
AT&T California
525 Market St.
19th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: AT&T Fiber Deployment to Mendocino County Schools

Dear Mr. Ken McNeely and the Point Arena Planning Commission,

The County of Mendocino commends AT&T for its project to provide fiber to the Point Arena schools complex. However, the County is disappointed that AT&T has failed to provide broadband at home to the students and staff of the Point Arena schools. Nor has AT&T provided broadband to the Point Arena City Hall, Coast Community Library, the local Sheriff's sub-station, the fire station, the senior center, local businesses and residences.

Having broadband at school is only a part of the educational experience. Without broadband access at home, students and staff cannot prepare instructional materials or complete school assignments. Increasingly, educational materials are provided online. Without broadband access at home, students do not have equal access to educational materials. At comparatively minor cost, AT&T could put a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) into the Point Arena Central Office (CO) that would significantly increase access to broadband for its students and staff.

Mendocino County questions whether continuing inaction by AT&T potentially violates the law by "Cherry-picking" a few anchor institutions along the Mendocino coast and refusing to provide access to broadband in other areas. Without providing County-wide access through simple technologies such as the DSLAM at AT&T's multiple Central Offices in our County, the Mendocino County economy is hurt in myriad ways. Students are relegated to a substandard education, and all of our citizens continue to suffer from an unacceptable deficit of information services.

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In summary, these actions by AT&T make it virtually impossible for third party service providers to do their work. Mendocino County respectfully asks that AT&T demonstrate that it is a model corporate citizen by providing broadband services to all of the communities in our County that are within its fiber footprint.

Sincerely,

John Pinches, Chairman
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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