

CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH

June 30, 2016

Mr. Michael M. Nelson, Chair
Montague Board of Selectmen
Montague Town Hall
1 Avenue A
Montague, MA 01376

Mr. Ken Young, Chair
Hardwick Board of Selectmen
Hardwick Municipal Office Building
307 Main Street
Hardwick, MA

Dear Chairmen,

At a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Board of Directors and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's Board of Directors ("the Boards"), held on June 30, 2016, the Boards voted to authorize the MBI staff to begin negotiations for a grant to Comcast to expand broadband access to your residents. This action taken by the Boards at the June 30th meeting concludes the process for determining the distribution of the funds associated with the Broadband Extensions Program.

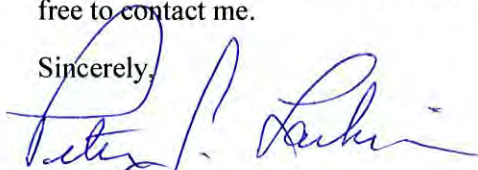
The MBI is hopeful that your Selectboards will accept the Boards' decision to move forward with a grant to Comcast to extend its broadband services to unserved residents in your communities but recognizes that your towns are not obligated to do so. This letter therefore presents the process by which either of your towns may opt out of the Broadband Extensions program, if it so chooses.

In the event that your town is not in support of Comcast expanding its plant in your respective towns, please notify the MBI in writing by July 13, 2016, that your Selectboard has voted, at a duly noticed public meeting, to have your town opt out of participating in the Broadband Extensions program. In the absence of such notification, the MBI will presume that your towns accept the Boards' decision to proceed with Comcast and wish to participate in the program.

Please note that if your Selectboard should vote to opt out of this program, your town will no longer be eligible to have a broadband expansion project funded by the MBI. We firmly hope that such a vote will not occur in either town, and that your respective Selectboards will agree to MBI's negotiations with Comcast proceeding on behalf of your residents.

The Comcast project proposal and accompanying supplemental materials, including the MBI staff recommendation and the review by the Department of Telecommunications Commissioner Karen Charles Peterson, are available for your review at <http://broadband.masstech.org>. We look forward to quickly completing negotiations with Comcast to ensure a prompt delivery of broadband service to your town's unserved residents. Should you have any questions about the process described in this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Peter Larkin
MBI Board Chair