



TOWN OF HAWLEY
MASSACHUSETTS 01339

TOWN OFFICE:
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June 20, 2016

Mr. Peter J. Larkin
Special Advisor to the Secretary of Housing and Community Development;
Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

Relayed via email through Ms. Katie Stoico
stoico@masstech.org

Dear Mr. Larkin:

The Town of Hawley is very appreciative of your efforts in getting things moving again with the MBI Last Mile program, and we are particularly encouraged by the new sense of flexibility in pursuing alternative Broadband delivery methods.

The purpose of this communication is to alert you to a situation in the Town of Hawley that may very well prevent us from completing our mission.

When the Middle Mile was underway, we were told that two CAI's would be installed in Hawley. The first would be at the Hawley Town Office, which is located on Pudding Hollow Road, just off Route 8A, in West Hawley. The second would go to the Hawley Firehouse, on East Hawley Road, in East Hawley. The signal sources for these two runs of fiber-optic cable would be from two major arteries – Route 2 in Charlemont (to the north) for the Town Office, and Route 116 in Plainfield (to the South) for the Firehouse.

The CAI for the Hawley Town Office was installed three years ago and has been used by the Town and our townspeople ever since. But the CAI for the Firehouse was never installed and the cable was never run. We're asking you to correct that situation.

Given the continuing trend toward increased Internet use, larger data loads and the need for faster and more diverse applications, we feel that the lack of Broadband at the Hawley firehouse puts us at a major disadvantage in providing for our Town's public safety. This is particularly true during emergencies such as tropical storm Irene. Since there is no cell phone service in most parts of Hawley, having Broadband would greatly strengthen the ability of our fire fighters and other emergency personnel to communicate with FEMA, MEMA, and other agencies, as well as each other, during an emergency. Not having Broadband at the fire house not only deprives us of a bulletin board capability for keeping our residents informed about important weather hazards, storm damage and fire control conditions, but it also denies us an important means of

communication for our first responders. And given that almost our entire force of firefighters and EMT's work on a voluntary basis, it takes away a needed venue for training and certification that could be used to help us attract new volunteers and motivate and retain the ones we already have.

By providing two distinct sources of Internet signal to the Town of Hawley – the existing one from Charlemont and the reinstated one from Plainfield, MBI will be creating a redundant backhaul system that will improve the integrity of the entire network.

We make this request to reinstate our second CAI respectfully, and in the hope that you will give it your most favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



John Sears
Chairman
Town of Hawley Selectboard

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