**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
Washington, D.C. 20230

NOV 4 2009

The Honorable Todd Staples
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Commissioner Staples:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), and your support for Connected Nation.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is working expeditiously to ensure that Recovery Act funds are made available as quickly, transparently, and effectively as possible. We will review this proposal on its merits according to our established review criteria and procedures. I appreciate you sharing your views on the project.

Sincerely,

Bernadette McGuire-Rivera

Bernadette McGuire-Rivera, Ph.D.
Associate Administrator
Office of Telecommunications
and Information Applications