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To: ConnectME Authority  
Phil Lindley, Executive Director, ConnectME  
RE: Pre-application letter  
Grant Round: Eight  
Project: Islesboro Fiber Project, Islesboro, ME

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1. The proposed project in Islesboro and will cover a portion of the island that has been unserved. The area to be served is the interior area of the island and western part of the island between the narrows at Crow Cove, north to the intersection of Main Rd and Ryder Rd. We are omitting coverage north of this point as Fairpoint picks up coverage with a remote DSL system. The east shore is already covered with wireless via Midcoast (now GWI) systems on Harborside across the bay. The area to be served has thick woods and unfavorable geography for wireless solutions. The area is between three and five miles from the CO, making a DSL solution not viable. The center of this coverage area is for year round families that play a vital role in the function of the island. The west portion of the coverage area is a mix of upscale summer residences and year round families.

2. The town has been in contact with Fairpoint Communications regarding expansion to the unserved region of the island. According to the town, Fairpoint has no plans to build out this portion of the island at this juncture.

3. Without a way to do DSL and wireless in this area, "fiber to the home" is the only solution to provide service to this unserved households. We intend to make the service very attractive with incredible speed options and affordable pricing. The fiber would be a gigabit based system with up to 250mbps available to each customer. Timing is highly dependent on make-ready activities dictated by Fairpoint and CMP.

4. The current estimated project cost is roughly \$310,319. The estimated amount is subject to change as the details of the project are finalized. GWI is requesting grant funding from ConnectME for the amount of \$248,255, or 80% of the project cost.

5. GWI intends to fund \$62,064, or 20% of the total estimated project cost.

6. There is an estimated 55 households within the proposed project region with no known businesses in the area. Our fiber build will be able to cover 100% of the unserved addresses.

7. See attached letter.

8. GWI provides services in 61 locations from Madawaska to Manchester, NH, as well as in Boston and New York City. With over 19 years of industry experience, GWI is considered a leader in broadband expansion. GWI has had years of successful experience building fiber networks and has a commitment to the state and its economic development and growth through the expansion of broadband. GWI, through its acquisition of Midcoast Internet Solutions, has also been a recipient of grant funding from ConnectMe in the past.

Thank you for the opportunity and we look forward to working with the ConnectME Authority in the months and years to come.

Best,  
Colin Haley