



May 2, 2014

Phillip Lindley, Executive Director  
ConnectME Authority  
Cross State Office Building  
State House Station 78  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0078

**Re: Pre-Application Letter – Benton Broadband Project**

Dear Phil:

In response to the Authority's announcement of its Ninth grant round, Premium Choice Broadband is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our Benton Broadband Project.

1. We propose to install fiber to the home service in the town of Benton in the unserved sections of the town.
2. We understand Fairpoint has some coverage in the town and will work with Fairpoint to avoid overlapping coverage with the final numbers to be in the grant application.
3. We intend to install fiber optic cable direct to the home with speeds of up to 15Mbps/15Mbps to be offered, with an expected standard service plan of 5Mbps/5Mbps.
4. Current estimated project cost is \$1,500,000 , subject to revision at the time of our formal application as the project details are worked out. We are requesting funding for \$1,050,000, representing 70% of the estimated project cost with our final estimates in the completed application.
5. Premium Choice Broadband, will fund \$450,000, or 30% of the estimated project cost. Premium Choice has successfully carried out projects funded by the Authority in prior grant rounds, and we are committed meet our obligations – financial, management, and operational – with respect to the Grindstone Broadband Project.
6. We estimate that approximately 1000 residences will be served by this system with the customers signing up for service in the first 12 months.
7. We are working with the town of Benton to gather support for this project. We will provide evidence of community support with our formal application.
8. Premium Choice Broadband currently serves over 150 towns from over 60 locations with various technology to over 2300 customers covering 5600 square miles. Premium Choice has a well-established record of using hard work and ingenuity in order to bring our services to rural Maine communities. We will be happy to provide more detailed evidence of our experience upon request.

Premium Choice Broadband, looks forward to the formal application process and to accomplishing the Authority's objectives in the service area of the Benton Broadband Project. If you have any questions about this Pre-Application letter, please give us a call or e-mail us; our contact information appears below. We will be happy to respond. Thank you for your consideration of our proposed application.

**Premium Choice Broadband**

William L. Varney  
Chief Executive Officer  
12 Stevens Road  
Brewer, Maine 04412  
Office: (207) 735-2611  
Cell: (207) 949-2031  
billvarney@aol.com