

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**
County Courthouse
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Pete Kremen
County Executive

August 4, 2009

Bill Erdly
Director of Tulalip Data Services
Tulalip Tribes of Washington
8732 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Mr. Erdly:

RE: WA-RBC (Washington State - Rural Broadband Co-op) Service to Mt. Baker
Foothills Region

I am writing in support of this grant application from the WA-RBC to provide high speed broadband Internet access into the Mt. Baker Foothills region, and other locations throughout Whatcom County. These are rural, low income, mining and timber-impacted communities in our county that have long languished behind some of our other areas. The median household income is \$10,875. This area would be more able to develop economically with the foundation for workforce preparedness, and access to such services as:

- technology and library resources
- workforce development, literacy and tutoring services, and
- adult basic and continuing education opportunities

The establishment of a broadband infrastructure would be very beneficial in helping to jump-start their local economy. Whatcom County certainly supports this grant application and hopes that you will consider approving funds for this important addition to the community. Many residents of the Mt Baker Foothills area have expressed to me their wish for the service, particularly over the last year or two. The time is certainly right to move this forward, with your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Kremen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Kremen
County Executive

PK/ah