

## **STOWE CABLE SYSTEMS**

In Re: Funding For Last Mile Broadband Expansion

### **PREFILED TESTIMONY OF RICK ROTHAMMER**

**Q1. Please state your name, occupation and describe your qualifications to speak on behalf of Stowe Cable Systems regarding last mile broadband funding.**

A1. My name is Rick Rothammer and I am the President of Stowe Cable Systems, which was established in Stowe Vermont since 1984. I have held an executive position with the company for 36 years and have been involved with diversifying the company from a basic 10 channel cable television distributor to a multifaceted telecommunications company. Stowe Cable Systems currently provides broadcast and streaming television services, telephone services, Tier One Internet access and Fiber Optic services to residents and businesses in Stowe and Cambridge Vermont.

**Q2. In general terms, what is the purpose of your prefiled testimony?**

A2. In this testimony, I will outline the position of Stowe Cable Systems regarding last mile broadband expansion and the harm caused by not providing equal funding for the incumbents who are on the last mile doorstep and are already providing a viable broadband product to the residents of Stowe and Cambridge.

**Q3. What makes Stowe Cable Systems a unique telecom provider for the Town of Stowe and Cambridge?**

A3. Stowe Cable Systems already offers a quality broadband product to the residents and businesses in the Towns of Stowe and Cambridge and is currently positioned to be able to provide last mile expansion more quickly than those starting anew. We believe that Stowe Cable Systems is in the unique position to be able to expedite services to last mile residents in the Towns because of its:

- State of the art Fiber and broadband network with broadband speeds starting at 25Mbps to gigabit speeds of (1,000Mbps) which, based on our current business plan and current town coverage, will shortly make available 100% Fiber Optic to all homes and businesses in the Town, who wish to purchase the service.
  
- Stowe Cable Systems is already positioned on the last mile fringes of the two Towns and feels that if the goal is to quickly roll out broadband services to unserved and underserved residents in the last mile, then equal funding for

those with the expertise and who are already providing a quality broadband product would help to expedite this goal.

- As a result, Stowe Cable is able to offer unique and important services to last mile residents and the community at large which includes but is not limited to, a state of the art fiber optic network, competitive rates, and next generation broadband access for all residents and businesses.

**Q4. Does this conclude your testimony?**

A5. Yes. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute my thoughts on this important subject.