

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Resolution No. 08-03-13
 March 27, 2008

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN LETTER IN SUPPORT
 OF DANC’S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR THE OATN EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) owns and operates the Open Access Telecom Network (OATN), and

WHEREAS, this network supports public and private voice, data and video operations, providing digital transport services into and out of the North Country, and

WHEREAS, this telecommunications infrastructure provides the foundation to stimulate economic development in the North Country both in terms of business retention and growth, and

WHEREAS, DANC proposes to extend its OATN facilities to industrial parks in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties, and extend the network south through Lewis County for system redundancy, and

WHEREAS, DANC has applied for funding assistance through the US Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency recognizing the importance of such a project to the economy of St. Lawrence County, authorizes its Chairman to sign a letter in support (see attached) of the project.

Move:	Morrill			
Second:	LaBaff			
VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Blevins				X
Greenwood	X			
LaBaff	X			
McMahon				X
Morrill	X			
Staples	X			
Weekes				X

I, Natalie A. Haggart, of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared this copy of this resolution adopted March 27, 2008, with the original record in this office and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

 /s/
 Natalie A. Haggart
 March 27, 2008



St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency

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Brian Staples, CPA

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Industrial Development Agency

*

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Kimberly Gilbert
St. Lawrence County
Industrial Development Agency

March 27, 2008

Mr. John Marshall
US Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
620 Erie Boulevard West, Suite 104
Syracuse, New York 13204

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am writing on behalf of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to support the Development Authority of the North Country's application for funding to expand the Open Access Telecom Network (OATN).

The OATN has created a variety of economic opportunities in St. Lawrence County. For example, our newest employer, Newton Falls Fine Paper Co., has experienced severe telecom problems that has resulted in lost business and significant business disruption. The OATN will provide the necessary infrastructure to help keep this new company (with 100+ employees and \$20 million invested) successfully operating. The OATN is also supporting multiple wireless broadband carriers that are expanding services to the most rural portions of St. Lawrence County. Their investment of over \$500,000 will enable entrepreneurs in those communities to more effectively operate their businesses. Finally, one of our premiere institutions of higher education, Clarkson University, is a direct beneficiary of the OATN. The OATN carries Clarkson's advanced research network and facilitated \$8.9 million in direct private investment in primary research in the last three years.

The St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency is pleased to be working with the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, Lewis County Industrial Development Agency, and New York State Empire State Development to create a regional attraction program targeted at corporate data support centers. This initiative would not be possible without the OATN.

We appreciate EDA's support of projects benefiting St. Lawrence County and look forward to our continued collaboration on economic development projects.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Staples
Chairman