

CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH

March 23, 2017

Mr. Stan Moss, Chair
Town of Princeton
Board of Selectmen
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

RE: Qualification of Comcast to Receive an MBI Grant to Serve Princeton

Dear Mr. Moss:

We are pleased to inform you that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (“MBI”) has qualified Comcast to receive a grant to design, build, operate, manage and maintain a broadband network service to the residents of Princeton. MBI has made this decision after receiving an updated request for grant funding from Comcast across all four communities that it has proposed to serve. Additionally, Comcast has removed its non-severability requirement; therefore, Princeton’s decision is not dependent on the activity or decision of any other town. With this grant, the town now faces an extremely important decision about how it will close the digital divide and secure broadband access for its residents.

MBI’s ‘Last Mile’ funds would be made available through this grant to Comcast to cover the entire cost of its proposal. As a result, the broadband network would be built at no cost to Princeton taxpayers, allowing the town to forego any long-term debt, and the resulting property tax increase, to provide broadband services to its residents. In addition to broadband, Comcast’s proposal would also offer voice and cable television service at no cost to the taxpayer beyond the usual subscription and installation charges that Comcast would ask of any customer in the Commonwealth. Additionally, if the town elects to choose this option, MBI is in a position to begin final grant agreement negotiations immediately.

We understand that Princeton is currently engaged in the franchise licensing process with both Charter and Comcast. We hope that this information is useful to the town as it pursues this process. MBI is thrilled that it is now possible to offer a broadband solution at no cost to the town that can be quickly deployed to the benefit of the residents.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Larkin
Chair, MBI Board of Directors
Special Advisor
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development