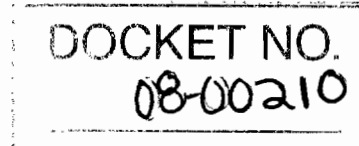


## INDUSTRIAL BOARD OF COFFEE COUNTY

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December 15, 2008



Chairman Tre Hargett  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Chairman Hargett,

At its December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the Industrial Board of Coffee County unanimously voted to request your approval of the state-wide certification for Ben Lomand Communications (BLC). By granting the certification, BLC will have the permission it needs to serve our Interstate Industrial Park located in Coffee County located along Interstate 24 East of Manchester, Tennessee.

The fiber build-out that BLC is willing to provide, will give Coffee County's Interstate Industrial Park the advanced services that are a necessity in today's industrial recruitment market. This park currently contains 21 industrial operations with 1,846 total employees. The only broadband capability that is currently available in the park is T-1 links provided by AT&T. The proposed fiber network will provide modern, affordable and effective telecommunication capability for these existing industries, and also positively add to Coffee County's list of benefits while recruiting other industry, therefore, making us equally competitive.

The BLC state-wide certification will also provide an opportunity for future provision of broadband capabilities for many rural areas in the county that currently have no internet connectivity other than dial-up. Many of these rural areas have sufficient population to justify broadband capability, which is greatly needed to support small businesses, home-based support by employees of local industries, participation in internet-based coursework for rural students at area colleges and vocational schools, as well as general household usage.

Several members of Coffee County's leadership team would like the opportunity to discuss this matter with the commission. Some letters of support have previously been sent to TRA expressing support for the Ben Lomand certification, and also requesting an opportunity for discussion. We propose a joint meeting between coffee county officials and TRA representatives. If an appointment is possible, please call our office at 931-723-5120 and we will coordinate with the others for a joint meeting. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Comer, Chairman  
Industrial Board of Coffee County