



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 5, 2009

Mr. Alex Hunt  
Chief, Information Policy Branch  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) requests emergency review of an information collection request, "State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, Broadband Mapping State Data Collection," pursuant to the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA), Public Law No. 110-385, 122 Stat. 4096 (Oct. 10, 2008).

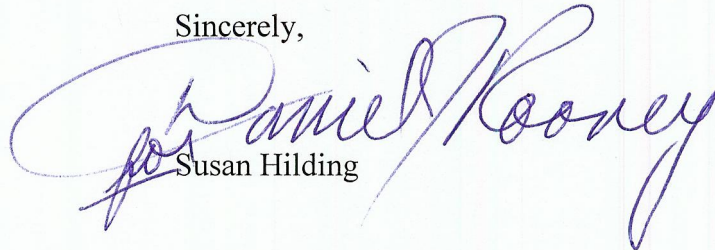
Section 6001(l) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) authorizes NTIA to expend up to \$350 million pursuant to the BDIA and for the purposes of developing and maintaining the national broadband inventory map. Therefore, in the interests of gathering the data necessary to develop such national broadband map, and pursuant to the grant-making authority provided under the BDIA, NTIA established the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Grant Program, and on July 8, 2009, published a notice of funds availability under such program requesting proposals from states or their eligible designees. The SBDD Grant Program will provide grants to assist states or their designees in gathering and verifying state-specific data on the availability, speed, location, and technology type of broadband services, as well as to fund state-level broadband planning efforts.

NTIA is requesting emergency review and approval of this information collection so that:

1) grant recipients can expeditiously collect important data on broadband availability as part of the SBDD Grant Program and meet the program's requirement that initial data be provided by March 1, 2010; 2) NTIA may use such data in the development and maintenance of a national broadband inventory map that must be publicly available by February 17, 2011; and 3) national, state, and local regulators and policymakers may use the collected data in making time-sensitive policy and regulatory determinations, especially as relates to broadband and information technology grant programs such as NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP).

NTIA is asking OMB to conclude its review of this information collection request by October 8, 2009. Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Kooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

~~for~~ Susan Hilding