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Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 3:37 PM

Subject: Leverett Broadband Project Update

Dear Neighbor, Town official, Community Leader -

The Leverett Municipal Light Plant has just participated in the preparation of an "Overview" (attached) of the institutional, contractual and financial elements of what has come to be known as the "Leverett Municipal Broadband Model". We encouraged this project because increasing requests for advice and consultation have afforded us a reasonably good grasp of the information needs of Western Mass towns considering broadband networks of their own.

This project also offered us the opportunity to do a better job of helping other communities and at the same time dispel some misinformation about the town and the project. Particularly amusing has been the "rich and smart people" fantasy. The demographic information provided in the Appendix provides median income information along with hard facts that 53% of the Town is in taxation protected land. As for "smart", that was best dismissed in a note from a visitor who wrote: ". . . you all were delusional to ever think you could pull off what you did." Smart or rich aside, we are the first to credit Leverett with very hard work and maybe more than a little luck.

And speaking of luck this Overview was prepared by a well-regarded, internationally recognized financial consulting firm based in Northampton with family ties to Leverett and with a sense of hometown volunteer service. They even took the time to sit in on one Q&A meeting we hosted with an area town just to get a sense of the dynamics.

This document was also vetted with our Network Operator and ISP as well as with MBI and a few visiting towns. An earlier draft was also submitted to our political representatives for them to deploy for the greater public good.

We also want to emphasize as we have in meetings that not only is this model not a template for every town, it is also not an end-to-end how-to guide. It is, rather, a resource for ideas that are now proving to work successfully in this particular situation. The additional reality is that the Leverett MLP will continue to work hard to improve upon the utility and

efficiency of how we operate so aspects of the operational section of the Overview are sure to become obsolete.

We are sending this Overview to contacts in all Western Mass towns involved or interested in municipal broadband as well as to state and national officials. If you know of others who might find this document useful please feel free to send it along.

- The Leverett Municipal Light Plant Board