



CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Dick Clapp
Mayor of the City of Sarasota
1565 First Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Dear Mayor Clapp:

I am writing in strong support of the City of Sarasota's efforts to bring ultra high-speed Internet service to its citizens. The City of Sarasota is perfectly positioned to benefit from faster, better Internet-connectivity. Furthermore the service would help grow the economy at a time when creating jobs is the most important issue facing us.

The City of Sarasota is fortunate to have a number of commercial, educational, and cultural entities as well as a highly educated population with marketable skills and knowledge. Faster broadband connectivity would enhance the ability of nationally-recognized facilities such as Mote Marine Laboratory and Ringling College of Art and Design to fulfill their mission. Furthermore, it would increase productivity and help grow jobs through existing businesses in the community.

Ultra high-speed broadband networks would also help attract new businesses to Sarasota, giving them an additional incentive to locate here. Specifically, the ability to send and receive data as much as 100 times faster than usual would be a draw for emerging high-tech industries and additional talent.

The unemployment rate in Sarasota County is currently over 13 percent. In addition to the long-term benefits of ultra high-speed Internet, the construction of faster broadband infrastructure would help put area residents to back to work almost immediately.

[1]

At a time when Washington's budget is facing annual \$1 trillion deficits well into the future and the state and city governments face budget cuts, I am encouraged to see private initiatives that would grow the economy and create private sector jobs.

We have a unique opportunity right now to elevate the City of Sarasota above other communities in the state and nation as a prime destination to work and live. I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm in the community for ultra high-speed broadband networks and commend the public, private, and non-profit entities that have come together in support of this initiative. The community has my best wishes for a successful outcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vern Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

VB/st