

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 18, 2007

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing for your consideration the attached legislative proposal, entitled, "An Act Establishing and Funding the Massachusetts Broadband Institute."

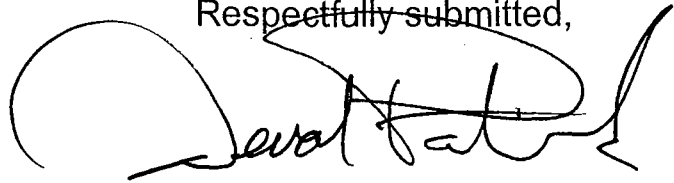
To retain its competitive edge and fuel the Commonwealth's economic development strategy we must ensure affordable and available broadband access statewide. Broadband access has a proven track record of stimulating economic growth, creating jobs, and increasing property values and tax receipts. This bill will create and fund the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which will make strategic and targeted public investments with the objective of providing high-speed Internet, or broadband, service to all currently un-served communities by 2010.

To leverage existing expertise at the John Adams Innovation Institute and permit us to meet these aggressive goals in a timely and cost-effective manner, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute will be part of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. The Institute will seed public-private partnerships to develop broadband infrastructure and target the citizens and businesses in un-served areas that currently have no broadband access. Also, the Institute will measure existing broadband access conditions and create a central plan to address access deficiencies while investing public funds into essential, long-lived infrastructure such as fiber and wireless towers to lower overall cost of deployment for private providers. In addition, this bill contains a \$25 million bond allocation

to create the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund, which will be managed by the Institute to leverage private investments and provide complete broadband solutions where deficiencies exist.

This proposal will enhance our competitive position in vital sectors of the economy and improve the health, safety, education, and quality of life for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill to help promote affordable and available broadband access to all corners of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,".