



Pen Bay Medical Center
MaineHealth

Lisa A. Leahy
Associate Executive Director ConnectME
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Augusta, ME -04333-0078
207-592-0668

April 15, 2016

Dear Lisa,

I am writing in support of the Town of Rockport's request for a planning grant to help fund the engineering and design of a fiber network that serves all the residents of Rockport.

As I am sure you are aware telemedicine is quickly becoming an integrated piece of the total healthcare delivery system. Telemedicine allows us to retain and build services, reduce costs and reach out into rural communities with transportation constraints. Pen Bay Medical Center currently utilizes telemedicine for home health, stroke, speech, and emergency services. Most of our current offerings are from one health facility to another for professional consultation.

The health system is preparing for the next phase of telemedicine which is to provide services in the homes of our patients and families. I feel confident that we can quickly build the necessary infrastructure to serve the Mid-coast region but, the lack of an available, dependable, and affordable high speed broad band is a challenge for our patients, who would choose to use this service. While we may be able to communicate between the practices and hospitals in our network, the ability we would potentially have to monitor patients, in their homes, would be very limited without high speed broadband.

We support the Town of Rockport's efforts to lead the way in this important initiative that will impact the State of Maine. Feel free to contact with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Erik Frederick, MHA
Chief Operating Officer
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