

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK

SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

October 18, 2016

Mr. Earl F. Gohl
Federal Co-Chair
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NY
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068

Dear Co-Chair Gohl,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Southern Tier Library System (STLS) for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The funding will be used to upgrade telecommunication technology in STLS libraries

STLS serves as the lead agency for public libraries in Alleghany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates counties. They provide support services to 48 public libraries throughout the five-county region, and empower over 280,000 residents with 21st century public library services. In addition to the delivery of library materials, outreach programs, professional consulting, and library training, Southern Tier Library Systems provides information technology support to all Southern Tier libraries. This support includes networking of hardware and software, maintenance of database infrastructures, and oversight of internet connectivity.

The requested funding will allow STLS to purchase equipment and supplies in order to connect Southern Tier libraries to Southern Tier Network Dark Fiber. STLS will enhance its services as the primary IT provider to the region's public libraries, and aid in local economic development by bringing high-speed internet through dark fiber into rural Southern Tier communities. Ultimately, this project will improve Appalachian New York's infrastructure to make the region more economically competitive by increasing the accessibility and use of telecommunications technology.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator