



For Immediate Release

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Time to Bring High-Speed Internet to Unserved Areas of Rural America

Internet Access is Critical to Farms and Rural Business

WASHINGTON, March 23, 2009 (RuralWire) – In response to a report released recently by Americans for Prosperity entitled “Municipal Broadband’s Record of Failure,” Cole Sims, National Spokesperson of the Rural Telecommunications Alliance, stated:

“This timely report underscores the need for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Services (RUS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to prioritize bringing high-speed internet to unserved areas of rural America. If the meltdown on Wall Street has taught us anything, it’s that the government shouldn’t throw good money after bad, rewarding failed business models with the taxpayers’ money. We urge the Obama Administration to deliver on its promise of bringing broadband internet to every home in America by focusing the investment of federal stimulus money on the unserved areas that need it most. Not a penny more in taxpayer dollars should be lost on building new networks in areas already reaping the benefits of broadband while farming communities await their first trip on the Information Superhighway.”

The Rural Telecommunications Alliance (RTA) is a coalition dedicated to advancing communications and broadband services throughout small town America. RTA’s members include National Association of Farmer Elected Committees, American Agriculture Movement, American Corn Growers Association, League of Rural Voters, National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association and Women Involved in Farm Economics.

The report from Americas for Prosperity may be found at <http://www.americansforprosperity.org/031809-afp-policy-paper-municipal-broadband-failures>