



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Greg Staple
Mr. Kevin Werbach
The Open Park Project
740 Seventh Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

SEP 13 2004

Dear Mr. Staple and Mr. Werbach:

It is my pleasure to convey high appreciation for Open Park's initiative in developing a free public network for broadband wireless service on the National Mall. Your efforts showcase the capabilities of Wi-Fi for the millions of visitors to our Nation's Capital.

As you may know, President Bush is committed to the goal of universal, affordable access to broadband technology by the year 2007. Broadband technology for high-speed Internet access will improve the Nation's economic productivity and offer life-enhancing applications, such as distance learning, remote medical diagnostics, and the ability to work from home more effectively.

Wi-Fi and other wireless technologies will play a vital role in meeting the President's goal. To encourage the development of wireless broadband technologies, the Administration has made more radio spectrum available including allocation of an additional 255 megahertz of spectrum for unlicensed devices, such as Wi-Fi. The President has also signed an Executive Memorandum announcing the Administration's commitment to the development and implementation of a comprehensive United States Spectrum Policy for the 21st Century. As part of the President's Spectrum Initiative, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has hosted several public meetings and exhibits in Washington to demonstrate the promise of new wireless technologies and to educate the public about the benefits of wireless technologies, including Wi-Fi.

The Open Park network on the Mall is the kind of project that we hoped would be made possible by the Administration's efforts. It will provide a readily accessible public demonstration of the benefits which unlicensed wireless networks can offer. Open Park has launched an important educational and research project as well as a community service. Please keep my staff apprised of your progress in implementing Open Park's network. I wish you every success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Gallagher".

Michael D. Gallagher