



February 5, 2009

This letter is in support of Operation Link-Up and the vital need to bring fiber optic service to Silverton, Colorado. The Mountain Studies Institute is a research and education non profit dedicated to making Silverton a focal point for the study of mountain environments. MSI provides field station services for visiting researchers, educators and students. MSI needs fiber optics for:

- Reliable and fast internet and email
- Ability to download large files quickly
- Ability to host live video conferencing for meetings, workshops, and distance learning

Fiber optic service is essential for economic development in Silverton and San Juan County. Without fiber optic infrastructure MSI and the Silverton community will be unable to attract new clients and businesses that require high speed connectivity.

Sincerely,

Koren Nydick  
Executive Director

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