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OPERATION LINK UP
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As the group is well aware, the Multi-Use Network (MNT) was authorized as a state program by S.B. 96-102 with the goal of connecting urban and rural communities across the state to bridge the digital divide. The State of Colorado agreed to aggregate its data telecommunications circuits onto the MNT, and in return Qwest agreed to build a fiber-optic network spanning and connecting every county seat in the State. This agreement remains unfulfilled, since the San Juan County seat, Silverton, remains without a direct fiber connection with the rest of the State. I am writing in regards to my knowledge concerning Silverton's continued expectation that Qwest directly link Silverton to the rest of the State of Colorado by fiber. These expectations are well founded as a result of representations made by both Qwest and State of Colorado officials both orally and in writing during presentations of the Multi-Use Network (MNT). Additionally, I want to offer my assistance in the organization's efforts to see that Qwest and the State of Colorado fulfill the promises made to the citizens of San Juan County.

My familiarity with the MNT project and the Silverton community stems from my work for the local community economic development organization between 1999 and 2004. During this

period on behalf of the local economic development group, Silverton schools, and the Town of Silverton and San Juan County, I attended the many presentations provided by both Qwest and State of Colorado officials on the MNT. At times I personally challenged both Qwest and State officials concerning these entities resolve to lay fiber directly to Silverton as this was the primary concern of the community considering the remote and rugged terrain of the region. However, I was assured that my concerns were without reason and that the Silverton community could rely on what Qwest and the State promised. State representatives that made these assurances included Juan Trujillo, the initial MNT-Project Manager, and Guy Mellor the subsequent MNT-Project Manager. Assurances by Qwest were provided by Jackie Slate. And so the Silverton community waited, and even when the report to Governor Owens announced the project as “virtually complete” there was no indication to the community or to the Governor that the goal of a fiber connection had been abandoned. In fact, the language provided in the MNT Project Completion Report reads as follows:

Silverton has a 16 mile fiber build remaining from the La Plata County line which is awaiting clearance of title issues with the power line right-of-way. *As an interim solution*, the microwave capacity into Silverton is being increased from 45 Megabits to 200 Megabits *until the fiber run can be completed*. (Emphasis added).^[1]

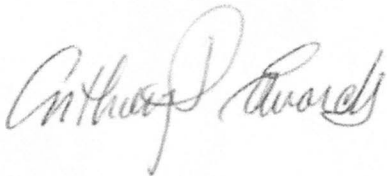
The plain language clearly indicates that not only was it expected that Qwest would run fiber to Silverton, but that any alternative was an “interim solution.” The purposes of running fiber to each county and the benefits that fiber connections provide to a community are well documented both in the records of the MNT in and in business and technology journals. The citizens of San Juan County relied on the promises made by Qwest and the State. This reliance has been reasonable, where the community has provided Qwest and the State with ample time to address

^[1] MNT Project Completion Report - September 2003 presented to Governor Owens in October of 2003.

title and power line right-of-way issues. Now is the time for Qwest to complete the MNT and fulfill the promise the company and the State made to the citizens of San Juan County, Colorado.

Please consider this letter as evidence of my full support of Operation Link Up's efforts in holding the State and Qwest accountable for complying with each entities duty to fulfill the promises made to San Juan County. Of equal importance, I request that should the organization or anyone reviewing the history of the MNT project and these circumstances need information that I can provide, that Operation Link Up forward my contact information accordingly. I want to assist in any manner possible to see that Silverton is directly linked to the rest of the State of Colorado and the United States through a fiber-optic connection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony D. Edwards". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anthony D. Edwards