



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAINE FIBER COMPANY INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA & HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE “THREE RING BINDER”

Rural, high-speed internet expansion included in event highlighting investments President Obama calls essential to “rebuilding our economy on a new and stronger foundation for growth over the long term.”

[NOTE: TRAVEL TO WHITE HOUSE EVENT PREVENTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER.]

WASHINGTON, DC – Only a nine hour delay in Boston’s Logan Airport and eventual inability to get a flight to Washington, D.C. due to inclement weather kept Maine Fiber Company CEO Dwight Allison from attending a White House event with President Obama today to highlight a small group of important economic investments made nationally as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

At the event attended by Vice President Joe Biden and representatives of important ARRA projects across the country, President Obama said Recovery Act investments to “expand broadband,” like Maine Fiber Company’s Three Ring Binder project, were “laying the foundation for where we need to go” in order to create “the jobs of the 21st Century.”

“Maine Fiber Company was honored to be invited to the White House today. As a Maine-based company, we are committed to making sure the Three Ring Binder is an immediate and long-term job creator in Maine,” said Allison. “As U.S. Commerce Secretary Locke said in Orono in December, too many Maine and American communities are stuck with 20th century information tools that leave them ill-equipped to compete in today’s global economy. That is simply unacceptable and hampers economic growth in Maine. The Three Ring Binder is going to help change that and we are very pleased to have the Obama Administration’s active support.”

Maine Fiber Company’s Three Ring Binder was also the subject of a very strong, positive editorial in this past Sunday’s *Maine Sunday Telegram*. Noting that “the losers in the current system are the potential customers who can’t get high-speed access for their homes or businesses,” the paper called the Three Ring binder “good public policy” that is “creating equal opportunity for small service providers to meet a need and grow in a field that has an uncertain future.” (To read the full editorial, go to <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=315018&ac=PHedi>.)

Maine Fiber Company is a Maine-owned and operated private company which will oversee the construction, maintenance and leasing of an open access, 1,100-mile, high capacity fiber-optic network that won \$25.4 million in stimulus funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce on December 17, 2009. For more background information visit the company’s website (www.mainefiberco.com) or read the press release at the following link: <http://www.mainefiberco.com/MaineFiberCompanyRelease100209.pdf>.

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANCE OF PROJECTS TO EXPAND RURAL, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE RECOVERY ACT
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

“The jobs of the 21st century are in areas like clean energy and technology, advanced manufacturing, new infrastructure... Other countries already realize this. They're putting more emphasis on math and science. They're building high-speed railroads and expanding broadband. They're making serious investments in clean energy because they want those jobs. And America cannot stand still in the face of this challenge. We can't afford to put our future on hold. So that's why a big part of the Recovery Act has been about investing in that future. Yes, it created jobs now. Yes, it created business opportunities now. But more importantly, it's laying the foundation for where we need to go.” [Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-and-vice-president-one-year-anniversary-signing-recovery-act>]

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN'S *USA TODAY* OP-ED
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

“[T]he most exciting thing about the Recovery Act is not what we've done, but what lies ahead. Many Recovery Act programs that will build the groundwork for the economy of the 21st century will be implemented in the next few months. Broadband access for small and rural communities. New factories where electric cars and clean fuel cells will be made. Wind farms, solar panels — and the facilities to construct them. New health technologies and smarter electrical power grids will be creating jobs this year thanks to the Recovery Act.” – Vice President Biden's op-ed in a *USA Today* op-ed, February 17, 2010

WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET: “RECOVERY BY THE NUMBERS”
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Broadband: The first of over \$7 billion in awards to bring broadband to communities where there is little or no access have been made – a significant step forward in driving local economic development. [Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/recovery-numbers>]

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009
FEBRUARY 2010

Building the Infrastructure of the 21st Century: The Department of Commerce awarded six infrastructure grants (GA, ME, NY, SD, NC, MI) for a total of \$180.7 million that will result in increased access to broadband for more than 3,000 schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety entities. This represents nearly 4,400 miles of additional middle mile broadband fiber deployed to for unserved and underserved areas, including economically disadvantaged areas.
[Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/20100216-annual-report-progress-recovery-act.pdf>]

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www.maineiberco.com

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