

{ as prepared for delivery }

Talking Points
for
Under Secretary Thomas Dorr
Second Annual Business Technology Conference
St. George, Utah
Thursday, May 29, 2003
12:50 p.m.

- **Thank you Senator Bennett for the opportunity to join you today.**
- **Senator Bennett, we share a common desire to support the development of information technology infrastructure for businesses and families in Utah.**
- **Whether it is businesses in Salt Lake City or areas more rural and remote, Utah needs access to technology that expands business opportunities beyond the borders of Utah and America as a whole.**

- **I have seen first hand the impact this access to information technology can have on communities and individual lives. When Secretary and I announced on January 29, 2003 nearly \$1.5 billion in loan funds to assist with financing of broadband technology we were joined by several individuals from various parts of the country who told compelling stories of how this technology increased business and employment opportunities, and brought them greater access to educational and life saving medical services.**
- **To help more rural communities access such technology and to supplement this loan program, USDA announced on May 16, 2003 the selection of 40 grant recipients to receive over \$20 million in broadband community infrastructure grants – Grants that I might add, that resulted from the leadership of President Bush, Senator Bennett and his colleagues in Congress. It was through their efforts that USDA was able for the first time to provide such grant funds for broadband infrastructure.**

- **Communities selected to receive grant funds do not currently have access to broadband connectivity for essential services of police, fire protection, hospitals, libraries and schools. Through these grants, the communities will now be able to participate and take advantage of the high-speed telecommunications tools needed to be a part of the global digital community.**
- **The technology funds will not only allow for greater economic opportunity, but also extend the potential for improving the quality of life for all residents in the areas to be serviced by the infrastructure.**
- **Here as in other parts of the country, \$8.2 million of the grant funds will benefit 13 Native American and Native Alaskan communities including the Northern Ute Tribe in Whiterocks and Goshute Indian Tribe Reservation in Skull Valley.**

- **Today, I am pleased to present, along with Senator Bennett checks totaling over \$1.3 million to representatives of Skyline Telecom and Uintah Basin Telecommunication Association, Inc. to assist them in bringing broadband technology to the Goshute Indian Tribe Reservation, Northern Ute Tribe and the community of Altamont.**