



**Department of  
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March 4, 2016

Honorable Robert A. Stanley  
Chair  
NYS Route 28 Municipal Leaders Group

Dear Chair Stanley,

At the request of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo office, I am responding to your correspondence dated February 3, 2016, regarding your concerns with a lack of cellular coverage along NYS Route 28 corridor.

On behalf of the Department of Public Service we congratulate you and the Central Catskills Collaborative on the establishment of the Central Catskill Scenic Byway. This hard earned-designation is a direct result of the vision of the Central Catskills Collaborative and it will surely bring immense benefits to the communities along the Central Catskills Collaborative as well as the people who come to visit and enjoy the Catskill region.

We are in receipt of your letter in which you describe a lack of cellular coverage in many of the municipalities along the New York State Route 28 corridor. We agree that the availability and reliability of communications technologies are critical to the health and safety of our communities as well as the diverse economies of the regions in the State. The State also recognizes the environmental impact cellular and other infrastructure may have on the State's communities.

As you note in your letter, attracting investment to the diverse regions of the State is of critical importance and the State has several programs in place to address this issue. For example, in 2011, Governor Andrew Cuomo established the Regional Economic Development Council initiative, through which 10 Regional Councils develop long-term strategic plans for the economic growth of their regions. The Regional Councils are redefining the way New York invests in its economy and creates job by using a community-based and competitive approach for State resources. Additionally, Governor Cuomo has dedicated \$500 million – the largest contribution of any State – to building high speed broadband infrastructure in those areas of the State that do not have it. On the topic of health and safety, the State, through the NYS Division

of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, is participating in the federal FirstNet project. FirstNet is an independent authority authorized by the United States Congress to design, build and operate a nationwide wireless data network dedicated to public safety communication.

The Department of Public Service, through its Examination of the State of Telecommunications, is actively engaged in reviewing its regulatory frameworks to address issues of resiliency, reliability and availability of communications – cellular and otherwise – in all parts of the State. A formal proceeding has been initiated and we encourage your participation so that the issues you raise may be addressed. Comments and information may be submitted to the Department directly as set forth below.

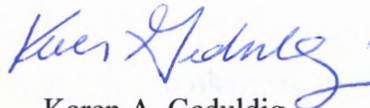
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Sincerely,



Karen A. Geduldig  
Director  
Office of Telecommunications