



March 4, 2010

Dear Project Manager, Fiber Experiment
Google

120 SE 6th, Suite 110, 3 Townsite
Topeka, KS 66603-3515
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www.topekachamber.org

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Topeka, Inc. are ecstatic to see a growing number of citizens becoming energized to take an active role in making our community the best capital city in the United States. The THINK BIG TOPEKA effort started by private citizens in our community has grown with fervor and commitment to demonstrate to Google that Topeka understands the importance and value of advanced broadband services. The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Topeka, Inc. (DTI) are pleased to join with other organizations and individuals in this effort to enhance technology investment in the capital city.

For a long time the business community and staff of the Topeka Chamber and DTI have lauded the attributes of Topeka/Shawnee County. We are a desirable community to live in, build a career and raise a family. We have wonderful amenities for citizens and visitors to enjoy. Our community is proud of its parks and trails; Topekans are active sports enthusiasts. Topekans embrace the arts and celebrations, particularly those in the downtown area. They don't just stand back and watch; they get involved and join in.

In Topeka/Shawnee County the last municipal university in the country, Washburn University, thrives; young people provide excitement and new thinking. There is an active young professional community and more than 12,000 college graduates in our region. There are excellent elementary and secondary schools involving parents, business and community partners to make education fun and real world.

The Topeka Chamber strives to draw into our community new investment. There are local businesses that have been the backbone of our economy for many years and entrepreneurs with new ideas. We have terrific medical services and hospitals that are nationally recognized. There is a great workforce dedicated to their company's goals. Together the business community and labor find significant common ground in bettering our hometown by working together and through volunteerism. The Milken Institute recently released their 2009 Best Performing Cities Index; Topeka was named the country's "Biggest Gainer." Of the 124 small cities ranked, Topeka climbed 69 points to number 37, up from number 106 in 2008. This jump is more than any other city on the list. Topeka is becoming known as a great place to do business!

Many business leaders and their associates are participating in the THINK BIG effort as well as Heartland Visioning, the Topeka Chamber and DTI. The business community works everyday to maximize Topeka's quality of life, create good jobs, and draw in private investment. The Topeka Chamber and DTI stand with THINK BIG TOPEKA to showcase our city and county, to ask Google to look our way. We are ready to work with Google representatives to delve into the details of this project and look to how Google might provide members of our community another competitive alternative for broadband internet access. The possibility of more competitive choice for our community is exciting; we are ready to listen and learn and aid in their decisions. Topeka, the capital city of Kansas, in the heartland of America is eager to embrace Google as an active service provider in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas S. Kinsinger".

Douglas S. Kinsinger
President & CEO
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan I. Mahoney".

Susan I. Mahoney
Executive Director
Downtown Topeka, Inc.