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News Release

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**FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS APPLIES FOR FEDERAL BROADBAND
EXPANSION GRANTS**

**Grant proposal would allow some north Floridians to get online for
the first time**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (August 20, 2009) -- The ability to get online for the first time may be closer for some residents of north Florida today as FairPoint Communications submitted applications for more than \$1 million under round one of three of the \$7.4 billion Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). If the funds are awarded, it means more broadband to more people in more communities. For some areas, it means faster connection speeds for existing and new customers in north Florida.

"The people and businesses in the unserved and underserved areas of north Florida have been waiting long enough for an affordable, high-speed Internet connection. These grants would allow us to serve areas left behind for too long," says Jim Cook, chief operating officer of FairPoint Communications -- Telecom Group. "With these funds, we would be able to extend high-speed Internet to about 700 additional households."

The Florida applications for broadband infrastructure ask for more than \$1million. The proposed broadband projects will serve the areas of River Road, Wilson Cottages and Dog Island in Franklin County, Lake Grove Road in Gulf County, Kinard in Calhoun County, and Turkey Creek and White Springs Road in Liberty County.

FairPoint Communications is also applying for grants to expand broadband into communities in Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire and Vermont. Following a rigorous review and a highly competitive process, the grant awards are scheduled to be announced during the fourth

quarter of 2009. Broadband delivery to rural America has been a core business strategy for FairPoint Communications for more than 15 years.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols FRP and FRP.BC. Learn more at www.fairpoint.com.

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