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## **Clinton Announces Key Senate Panel Backs \$200,000 for Adirondack-Champlain Community Fiber Network**

*Senator Urged Appropriations Committee To Include Funding In Spending Bill*

**Washington, DC** – Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton announced today that the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$200,000 for the Adirondack-Champlain Community Fiber Network (ACFN) in the FY06 Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

“As states and localities in rural parts of New York and across the country struggle to find sufficient funds to upgrade public safety radio and data systems, I am pleased that we can support projects like the Community Fiber Network, combining public safety needs with commercial efforts to deploy new wireless and fiber optic networks,” said Senator Clinton. “High speed communications are an economic lifeline to communities in the North Country and these funds will also bring us closer to realizing our goal of bringing broadband to the region.”

“These funds not only represent an important step in linking local communities, they will also ensure that the entire region has the digital communications resources it needs to connect and compete with the rest of the world,” Senator Clinton said.

The funding will help SUNY Plattsburgh work with its partners in the ACFN project, a public-private partnership to develop, install and operate a nearly 500-mile digital (fiber optic and wireless) communication network that meets the current and future needs of public/private users in the eastern Adirondack-Champlain region of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties, primarily for economic development and educational purposes. This network will increase educational opportunities at SUNY Plattsburgh and support international border security, first responders, health care providers and services, government agencies, private businesses and private citizens. SUNY Plattsburgh will work closely with the Clinton, Essex, and Franklin county industrial development agencies, the Northeast Regional Information Center (BOCES), and the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce to construct this communication network.

