

# fibertoday.com

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## Dear Executive:

James Baller has been named *fibertoday.com's* Person of The Year.

While it was not easy to name a Washington lawyer to our grandest title, James Baller is no ordinary attorney. He has launched a National Broadband Strategy that appears destined to play its way into President-elect Barack Obama's economic stimulus package in one form or another.

He has forged a coalition of carriers, vendors, consultants, unions, etc that belie the past work he has done to save muni fiber builds from the bullying tactics of some of the same carriers that serve in his coalition.

He gets it about fiber as the broadband medium of choice.

The inscription we are sending to Jim reads as follows, *"To James Baller, who has selflessly promoted the next wave of fiber optics in America. Through the efforts of people like Jim, all people throughout the United States now have the hope of benefiting from next generation broadband connections. We applaud Jim's efforts and wish him much success going forward."*

In fiber optics, we have been fortunate to have a technology that has not required federal assistance throughout its history. Yet now very well may be the time the government can come in and help America benefit from fiber optics. If that happens, it will largely be through the efforts of James Baller.