

Mills County Board of Supervisors

Control Number: 301001

Richard Crouch • Carol Vinton • Lonnie Mayberry

Mills County Courthouse • 418 Sharp Street • Glenwood, IA 51534

Phone: (712) 527-4729 • Fax: (712) 527-1579 • Website: www.millscoia.us

March 12, 2019

Dear Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Mills County Board of Supervisors, we greatly appreciate your consideration of the Mills County, Iowa broadband grant application. We are pleased to be working with Western Iowa Networks as a direct result of the Mills County Broadband Study completed in the Fall of 2018. Our County has historically been an area deficient in high speed broadband services. Each of the Board of Supervisors receive continual outreach from existing and potential businesses emphasizing the need for fiber to facilitate employment growth, new tax base, and residential development. We have watched families and businesses leaving our rural communities and rural areas for decades due to the lack of quality telecommunications infrastructure and related services.

The Mills County Board of Supervisors has worked closely with our economic development group and local broadband service providers begin implementing recommendations from the county-wide broadband study. Study results combined with additional engineering has brought us an opportunity to team with Western Iowa Networks for the expansion of broadband services to existing businesses falling within the I-29 growth corridor.

Mills County fully supports the expansion of fiber throughout all of Mills County and recognize it is a critical element to our future economic development success. Our economic development director and board have a great opportunity partnering with Western Iowa Networks to expand existing fiber to this high growth corridor. The expanded service will greatly enhance Mills County's ability to attract new industry and residents to Iowa while retaining local employers.

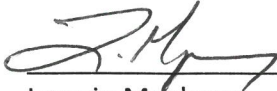
We appreciate your consideration of Western Iowa Network's grant application and look forward to continuing a long relationship the State of Iowa and our development partners resulting in positive results. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions; either by email or phone at; 712-527-4729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol Vinton", written over a horizontal line.

Carol Vinton, Chairperson

cvinton@millscoia.us

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lonnie Mayberry", written over a horizontal line.

Lonnie Mayberry

lmayberry@millscoia.us

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Crouch", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Crouch

rcrouch@millscoia.us



MILLS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

MISSION: "To improve the long-term economic sustainability of Mills County through an economic development agenda focused on job creation, job retention, and tax base enhancements enriching the quality of life for all citizens of the County."

March 11, 2019

Dear Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Mills County Economic Development Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I would like to say thank you for your consideration of the Mills County, Iowa application for funding assistance for the purposes of enhancing broadband services via Western Iowa Networks. Mills County has historically been recognized as an area deficient in high end, high speed telecommunications. We have witnessed businesses, employment opportunities, and families leaving our communities and rural areas for decades due to the inability to have access to high quality telecommunications infrastructure and related services. Recently the Mills County Economic Development Foundation and County Board of Supervisors collaborated with area broadband providers to complete a county-wide broadband study in October 2018. This information plus additional engineering has resulted in an opportunity to team with Western Iowa Networks to expand broadband services within a high growth corridor on the western edge of Mills County.

We believe the extension of quality telecommunications and fiber throughout all of Mills County is a critical element to our future economic development success. As our Director Rick Allely puts it, "If we don't have a strong framework of infrastructure, you can't expect to achieve new investment, job creation, or stability of our rural communities and school districts. It takes quality reliable utilities and infrastructure to support economic and community development." The ability to work with Western Iowa Networks to expand existing fiber to this high growth corridor would greatly enhance Mills County's and the State of Iowa's ability to attract new industry and residents while supporting existing employers such as Bunge.

Our eleven-member board supports Western Iowa Network's application for funding assistance to facilitate broadband expansion within the I-29 growth corridor. We appreciate your consideration of this application and look forward to continuing a long relationship with IEDA, Western Iowa Networks, the State of Iowa, and our other partners to enhance growth in Iowa. We believe Iowa can be proud of the return on investment and new opportunities for economic growth here in Mills County. Please feel free to contact us at 712-310-7010 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devin Embray".

Devin Embray, President

403 Railroad Avenue
Glenwood, Iowa 51534
712-302-7010
www.millscountyiowa.com