



211 N. Gear Avenue, Suite 100  
West Burlington, Iowa 52655

Tel: 319.753.5107  
Fax: 319.754.4763  
Website: [www.seirpc.com](http://www.seirpc.com)

October 8, 2019

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
Hoover State Office Building, Level B  
1305 E. Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Empower Rural Iowa – Broadband Grant Program

Dear Chief Information Officer Annette Dunn and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa broadband grant application for Danville Mutual Telephone. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to rural communities in the greater Southeast Iowa region, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment.

SEIRPC is a voluntary organization consisting of local governments within the four-county southeast Iowa region. The Planning Commission was formed in 1973 and is recognized as a 28H organization in the state of Iowa, with a role to facilitate and advance regional issues through planning, economic development, community development, housing, and transportation.

As of 2015, approximately 12,000 southeast Iowa households were not yet served by broadband with at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds. Among those, 5,000 households were not even served by the much slower 3 Mbps download and 768 Kbps upload speeds. Southeast Iowa residents see broadband capability and availability in rural areas as a major challenge as identified in our regional long range plan for Southeast Iowa, the Transportation and Development Plan 2050. This plan focuses on moving the region forward on shared strategies regarding economic development, community development, and transportation. One of the key strategies of the plan is to improve regional utility and broadband infrastructure for current and future needs. With this grant assistance, Danville Mutual Telephone will be able to efficiently expand broadband access and reliable cell phone network in our rural communities that still have little or no access to high speed broadband service.

This grant funding is critical for economic and community development of Southeast Iowa at large. Improved communications infrastructure with broadband will not only improve our region's quality of life but also help attract and retain residents.

Your serious consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach James", is written over a light-colored, textured background.

Zach James  
Assistant Director  
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission  
319-753-4313  
[zjames@seirpc.com](mailto:zjames@seirpc.com)

The logo for the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (Seirpc) features the word "seirpc" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letters "i" and "r", the words "Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission" are written in a smaller, uppercase font. Below the main text, there are three concentric, light-colored circles that resemble ripples in water.

The logo for the Southeast Iowa Bus (Seibus) features the word "seibus" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letters "i" and "b", the words "Southeast Iowa Bus" are written in a smaller, uppercase font. Below the main text, there are three concentric, light-colored circles that resemble ripples in water.