



October 10, 2019

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee  
Hoover State Office B  
1305 E. Walnut  
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Letter of Support for Grant Application and Challenge Process

Dear Grant Program Review Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Western Iowa Network's challenge of the availability of broadband in certain census blocks within Mills County, Iowa.

Mills County leadership and citizens are united in seeing the need for and taking steps for better broadband in our County. Western Iowa Networks has been a very good partner in helping this happen. Mills County completed a Broadband Study in October of 2018. A copy of this study is included with this letter. In the study, the County discovered there are serious broadband service limitations in the County, and the current State and Federal broadband map information does not adequately show those needs. Those areas of need include, but are not limited to, the census blocks which Western Iowa Networks challenges are not being served today, in spite of what was reported on the most recent version of the broadband availability map. Here is a list of those census blocks:

191290402011088	191290402011089	191290402011090	191290402011091
191290402012001	191290402012002	191290402022180	191290402022181
191290402011092	191290402011093		

The County has taken important steps to make improvements for the citizens of Mills County. Economic Development efforts have been strong and focused on bringing significant investment and business partners to the County. Particularly with the struggles the County has had with flooding, this is an important time to look forward and make Mills County stronger. We see this access to broadband grants as a significant factor in making this happen.

We ask you to seriously consider Western Iowa Network's challenge for these census blocks. We look forward to Western Iowa Networks continuing to make broadband more accessible in Mills County. Additionally, we support their grant request and ask you to approve it.

Thank you,  
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