



## MILLS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**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."

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 Review Committee:

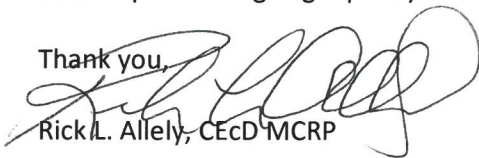
I am sending this letter in support for Western Iowa Network's challenge of the availability of broadband in certain census blocks within Mills County, Iowa. The Mills County Board of Supervisors and the Mills County Economic Development Foundation have diligently been working to address the broadband deficiencies in Mills County. Over the past two years numerous public meetings, citizen input events, business retention & expansion visits, collaboration with providers, and broadband specific studies have been completed so that Mills County can fully understand our needs and begin implementing projects meeting the needs of our citizens and businesses. We are united in seeing that high quality broadband is availability throughout our County. Western Iowa Networks is a key partner in making this happen.

We hired HR Green and completed a Broadband Study in October of 2018 which identified the following areas of need, but are not limited to, the census blocks below. The areas Western Iowa Networks challenges are not being served today. We have confirmed this with businesses and residential owners within these areas despite the reporting 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 Mills County Board of Supervisors and the Mills County Economic Development Foundation have taken important steps to make improvements for the citizens of Mills County. Access to broadband funding is a significant factor in our ability to retain population and creating opportunity for new development. We ask you to seriously consider Western Iowa Network's challenge for the above US Census blocks. We look forward to Western Iowa Networks partnering with us in implementing high quality broadband in Mills County.

Thank you,



Rick L. Allely, CECD MCRP

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