

## The Klingman Family

12517-322<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Strawberry Point, IA 52076  
563-767-2645

March 3, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

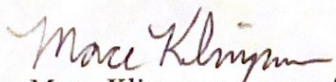
As rural residents in the southwest part of Clayton County, our family has lived and farmed approximately 4 miles southwest of Volga for over 28 years.

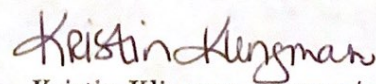
At this time, we understand that there is a concern for the internet provided to the residents in our area, and that an Intent to Qualify (ITQ) for a Broadband Intervention Zone has been proposed. We would like to express our support for this Intent to Qualify. We understand that we are located in the area of the ITQ, as a special area of geographic concern. As long-time rural residents, our property has never been served by any internet provider. Our only options are for satellite services, with data limits.

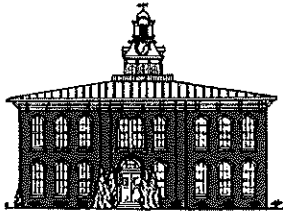
The importance of reliable connectivity, reliable and consistent speeds, and unlimited data has been apparent over the years. Previously, internet was more of a matter of convenience and entertainment than necessity. Currently, internet service has moved to be more of a necessity, and we continue to be unserved by a provider. As a family with school-aged children, the data limits are stifling during remote learning sessions that have arisen over the past few years. Options for remote working at the same time that children need to access remote learning only amplified the concerns. The issue of internet connectivity is no longer a matter of entertainment- it is a part of daily life, school, farming operation/trainings, and jobs, and we find ourselves located in an unserved area.

As property owners and residents within the proposed Broadband Intervention Zone, we support efforts to bring reliable connections for our family, farm, and students. Thank you for reviewing the ITQ, and considering the geographic area of concern/Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

  
Mace Klingman, owner/operator

  
Kristin Klingman, owner/operator



# Clayton County Board of Supervisors

Steve Doeppke, Ray Peterson, and Doug Reimer

Address: 600 Gunder Rd NE - Suite 3, Elkader, IA 52043 | Phone: (563) 245-2166  
Send Mail C/O Clayton County Auditor, 111 High St NE - Suite 102, Elkader, IA 52043

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March 14, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer  
200 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the Clayton County Board of Supervisors. As the Chairperson for the Clayton County Board of Supervisors, I would like to extend our support for the Intent to Quality for Broadband Intervention Zones for the areas of 1. Frenchtown area; 2. Clayton/Fayette; 3. Southeastern Clayton. Clayton County, Iowa has a population of 17,043 people and is a unique rural county located in the Northeast corner of Iowa. The meandering trout streams, rugged sandstone bluffs, and springs appeal to the nature lover in all of us. The county is a place to enjoy plentiful wildlife and scenic rivers with sandy islands, panoramic valleys, historic towns, and timbered hills. This unique landscape and amenities come with higher build out costs and concerns due to the topography and endangered species and rivers. Currently, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity and several residents are unserved. We feel there are many more unserved residents that are not included within the map currently as well as many more underserved.

Within our County, we see the struggle and limitations that exist due to the lack of reliable communication services. Local businesses, library patrons, residents, rural residents, students, and emergency services continue to see the limitations to conduct business and participate in remote learning opportunities, meetings, and trainings. Additionally, these areas are considered to be in poor cellular reception areas. As a result, many residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, increasing the necessity to upgrade speeds and service to improve reliable communication connectivity. For the economic stability of our county, with workforce, education, and health, Clayton County sees the impact that fiber can bring to our school-aged residents, workforce, and businesses.

Clayton County supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the areas of Frenchtown, Southeastern Clayton, and Clayton/Fayette, in Clayton. We thank you for your consideration of the ITQ applications. It is our hope that review by the Office of the Chief Information Officer will designate the proposed area as a geographic area of concern/intervention zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Respectfully,

Ray Peterson  
Chairperson  
Clayton County Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Peterson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and a cursive "Peterson".

**P. O. BOX 108  
WADENA, IA 52169-0108**

Control Number 503980

**March 6, 2023**

**To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa**


**As the Mayor and City Council of the City of Wadena, we are writing to express our support of the Intent to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone.**


**Wadena residents and businesses experience first-hand the limitations of internet speeds from our current provider. Our Council has been approached many times by local residents looking for another option. Residents who work from home have expressed their frustrations with the current situation and shared their stories of actually having to leave town to get the access they need to do their jobs. We fear this could deter people from wanting to buy a home in our town for that very reason. Another issue we hear frequently is the wait time that is experienced with new service installations and repair calls with our current provider.**


**Wadena, located in Fayette County, is hoping that we are an area of concern and could be included in the Broadband Intervention Zone to be considered in the broadband grant program.**

**We appreciate your consideration.**

**Wadena Mayor and City Council**

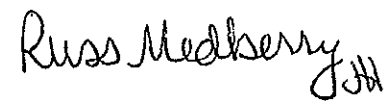
  
**Randy Weber**  
Mayor

  
**Richard Aeschliman**  
Council Person

  
**Ron Aylsworth**  
Council Person

  
**Cam McDowell**  
Council Person

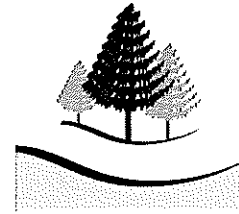
  
**Loree Moyle**  
Council Person

  
**Russ Medberry**  
Council Person



# VOLGA CITY

505 Washington Street, Volga City, Iowa 52077  
PH: 767-3511 volgacity@gmail.com



Mayor/Floodplain Administrator: Carrie Taylor Council: Dennis Christeleit, George Duff, Alex Fettkether, Crystal Nicholson, ProTem: Elaine Follen  
City Clerk: Kristin Klingman Maintenance: Mike Howard Water/Sewer Superintendent: Thomas Duff

March 2, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the community of Volga, Iowa, where I serve as Mayor. Volga, Iowa (pop. 203) is a rural community located in southwest Clayton County, and is supportive of the Intent to Qualify (ITQ) for a Broadband Intervention Zone. The community is located in the area of the ITQ, as a special area of geographic concern. At this time, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas, such as Volga, where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity.

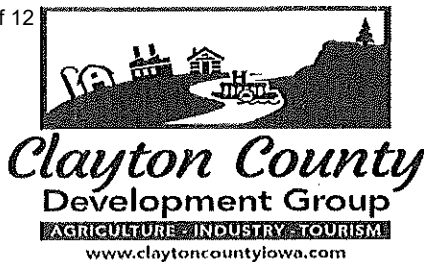
Within our community, we see the struggle and limitations that exist due to the lack reliable communication services. Local businesses, library patrons, residents, rural residents, students, and emergency services continue to see the limitations to conduct business and participate in remote learning opportunities, meetings, and trainings. Additionally, we are considered to be in a poor cellular reception area through US Cellular. As a result, many residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, increasing the necessity to upgrade speeds and service to improve reliable communication connectivity.

Volga supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the community of Volga, Iowa in Clayton County. We thank you for your consideration of the ITQ application. It is our hopes that review by the Office of the Chief Information Officer will the designate the Volga area as a geographic area of concern/Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Taylor, Mayor of Volga

PO Box 110  
505 Washington Street  
Volga, Iowa 52077  
563-379-0132



200 East Bridge St., PO Box 778  
Elkader, IA 52043  
Phone 563-245-2201  
ccdgd@alpinecom.net  
www.claytoncountyiowa.com  
www.visitiowa.org

March 7, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

On behalf of Clayton County Development Group; we are in support for the Intent to Quality for a Broadband Intervention Zone for the area. Clayton County, Iowa has a population of 17,043 people and is an unique rural county located in Northeast Iowa.

With rolling hills, trout streams, rugged limestone bluffs and valleys, brings nature lovers to the area. The county is a place to enjoy plentiful wildlife and scenic rivers with sandy islands, panoramic valleys, historic towns and timbered hills and limestone bluffs. With this landscape and amenities as such it comes with higher building costs and concerns to the topography and endangered species and rivers. At this time, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas, where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity and several residents are totally unserved.

Clayton County struggles with the limitations that exist due to the lack reliable communication services. Local businesses, library patrons, rural residents, students, and emergency services continue to see the limitations to conduct business and participate in online education, telehealth, meetings, and trainings.

The county is in a poor cellular reception area with many residents are unable to access cellular service at all. As a result, residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, this increases the necessity to upgrade speeds and broadband service to improve reliable communication connectivity that currently cannot meet those needs.

For the economic stability of Clayton County, for workforce, education, and health, Clayton County sees the impact that fiber can bring to our school-aged residents, workforce, and businesses.

The Clayton County Development Group supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the areas in Clayton County. We thank you for your time and consideration of the ITQ proposal to assist rural areas with broadband.

Respectfully,

Darla Kelchen  
CCDG Executive Director  
563-245-2201



# Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism

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March 10, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

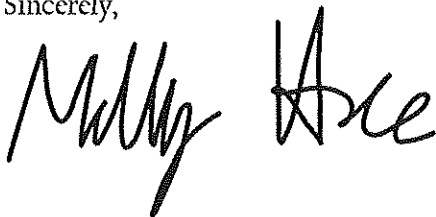
As the Director for Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism, it is my pleasure to write a letter in support for the Intent to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone for the Clayton/Fayette Area. Specifically, Arlington and Wadena areas within Fayette County. Fayette County is adjacent to Clayton County, both of which are primarily rural and located in the northeast corner of the state of Iowa. This unique geographic area is known as the Driftless region. It is strewn with rolling hills, bluffs, and meandering streams, which makes for a beautiful place to work, live, and visit. However, this also creates challenges when developing and expanding amenities, such as broadband.

Currently, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas, such as the Clayton/Fayette area, where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity and several residents are unserved or underserved. Limited or nonexistent communication services is a challenge for local businesses, library patrons, rural residents, students, and emergency services, to name a few. Additionally, this area is in a poor cellular reception area. As a result, many residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, increasing the necessity to upgrade speeds and service to improve reliable communication connectivity.

For the economic stability of our county, with workforce, education, and health, Fayette County sees the impact that fiber can bring to our school-aged residents, workforce, and businesses.

Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the Clayton/Fayette area. Thank you for your consideration of the ITQ application. It is our hopes that review by the Office of the Chief Information Officer will the designate the proposed area as a geographic area of concern/intervention zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mallory Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mallory" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hanson".

Mallory Hanson, Director  
Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism

# Edgewood-Colesburg

## Community School District

Dawn Voss, Principal  
Jr. Sr. High School  
[dvoss@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:dvoss@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)  
403 W. Union Street – P.O. Box 316  
Edgewood, Iowa 52042  
563.928.6412 – FAX 563.928.6414

Rob Busch, Superintendent  
District Office  
[rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)  
403 W. Union Street – P.O. Box 316  
Edgewood, Iowa 52042  
563.928.6411 – FAX 563.928.6414

Patricia Briggs, Principal  
Elementary School  
[pbriggs@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:pbriggs@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)  
409 East Street, Colesburg, Iowa  
563.856.2415 – FAX 563.856.2113  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 315  
Edgewood, IA 52042

March 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name Rob Busch, Superintendent of the Edgewood-Colesburg School District, in Edgewood, Iowa. Our district employs over 100 people and are part of a very progressive community. Attracting and retaining quality employees is more and more of a challenge. This year we even recruited a business teacher from Jamacia. One of our major hurdles to this is our community's inability to provide affordable, reliable internet services. Potential employees do not want to relocate to areas that do not have good access to the internet.

Because education is becoming more and more technical based, internet access is increasing important for day-to-day learning. Learning doesn't just take place during the day, so families also need a reliable and affordable internet provider option. Students without online access, or have poor access, struggle with their academic success. We owe our future generation the ability to engage, learn and succeed; and better internet services in our area is required to do so.

Please make improving internet access in our area a priority.

Sincerely,



Rob Busch

#### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Code No. 102.E1

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Edgewood-Colesburg Community School District are hereby notified that this school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 is directed to contact: Karla Tietkamp, District Equity Coordinator • 409 East Street, P.O. Box 125, Colesburg, IA 52015 • 563-856-2415 [tietkamp@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:tietkamp@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Ventelcher  
President

Matt Elliot

Jeff Hoeger

Tammy Kirby

Robert Schilling

Melissa Conner  
Board Secretary



## West Central Community School District

305 Pember Street  
PO Box 54  
Maynard, IA 50655  
Ph: 563-637-2283 Fax: 563-637-2294  
[www.westcentral.school](http://www.westcentral.school)

Nichole Recker, President  
Mary Ann Munger, Vice President  
Caleb Baker  
Stephanie Penney  
Josh VanSkyhawk

Gary Benda, Superintendent  
Matthew Molumby, PK-12 Principal  
Beth Weepie, SBO

To: OCIE

From: Gary D. Benda, Superintendent of Schools, West Central Community School District

Date: February 27, 2023

RE: Internet Capability

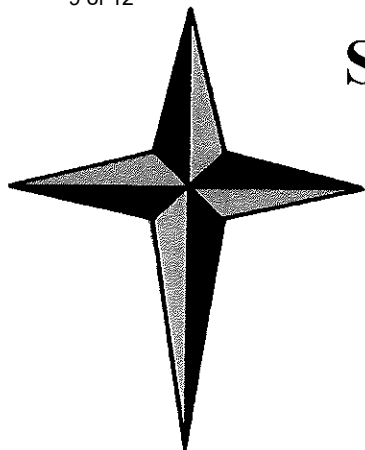
Dear OCIE---

My name is Gary Benda and I am the Shared-Superintendent for Starmont (Strawberry Point, Arlington and Lamont Iowa) and West Central (Maynard, Westgate and Hawkeye Iowa) Community School Districts. My districts support 600 and 325 students PreK-12 respectively in Fayette, Delaware, Clayton and Buchanan Counties. They support another 200 educators and people who support education as well. We also encompass large number of communities. In our current global educational environment, our students need access to high quality, high speed internet. Our students, staff and community need access to the internet for all manner of activities. They need to be able to research information, take virtual field trips and collaborate virtually with other students, staff and communities. In addition, we also want to retain our students staff and community members. Their access to high speed internet does impact where they choose to live, gain an education and access life. Finally, our ability to compete with other urban public and private school districts will be directly impacted by our ability to provide the same services they provide, except we will need to use the internet.

I want to urge you to provide the necessary support to bring high speed, reliable internet to our rural areas so that our students, staff and communities may have the same access as do their peers in more urban areas. If you have any questions, I can be contacted using the information below. Thank you for your time and attention.

Gary D. Benda, Superintendent  
[gbenda@wc.k12.ia.us](mailto:gbenda@wc.k12.ia.us)  
c: 319-621-0170





# Starmont Community School District

STrawberry Point • ARlington • LaMONT

3202 40<sup>th</sup> Street • Arlington, Iowa 50606-8199

**Superintendent**  
(563) 933-4598

**Middle/High School**  
(563) 933-2218

**Elementary School**  
(563) 933-2238

**District Fax**  
(563) 933-2134

To: OCIE

From: Gary D. Benda, Superintendent of Schools, Starmont Community School District

Date: February 27, 2023

RE: Internet Capability

Dear OCIE---

My name is Gary Benda and I am the Shared-Superintendent for Starmont (Strawberry Point, Arlington and Lamont Iowa) and West Central (Maynard, Westgate and Hawkeye Iowa) Community School Districts. My districts support 600 and 325 students PreK-12 respectively in Fayette, Delaware, Clayton and Buchanan Counties. They support another 200 educators and people who support education as well. We also encompass large number of communities. In our current global educational environment, our students need access to high quality, high speed internet. Our students, staff and community need access to the internet for all manner of activities. They need to be able to research information, take virtual field trips and collaborate virtually with other students, staff and communities. In addition, we also want to retain our students staff and community members. Their access to high speed internet does impact where they choose to live, gain an education and access life. Finally, our ability to compete with other urban public and private school districts will be directly impacted by our ability to provide the same services they provide, except we will need to use the internet.

I want to urge you to provide the necessary support to bring high speed, reliable internet to our rural areas so that our students, staff and communities may have the same access as do their peers in more urban areas. If you have any questions, I can be contacted using the information below. Thank you for your time and attention.

Gary D. Benda, Superintendent

[gbenda@starmont.k12.ia.us](mailto:gbenda@starmont.k12.ia.us)

c: 319-621-0170

It is the policy of the Starmont Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Superintendent at 3202 40th St, Arlington, IA 50606 or (563)933-4598.

The Starmont Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following service areas: Agriculture, Business, Family Consumer Science and Industrial Technology.

"IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION"



An Affiliate of **MERCYONE**

March 13, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa

Re: Intent to Qualify - Southeastern Clayton  
- Clayton / Fayette Counties  
- Frenchtown

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Guttenberg Municipal Hospital & Clinics (GMHC), expressing support for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative's desire to expand its fiber network services to Southeastern Clayton, Clayton / Fayette Counties and Frenchtown.

It has been brought to our attention that the three ITQ areas including various communities and rural areas are unserved and under-served. Within the proposed intervention zone, the area is seeing higher levels of poverty. Of note, Clayton County's rate is 12.2%. It is also seeing high levels of children in poverty at 16.3% with 30% of the population being children or young adults under the age of 19. To attract businesses, these people could obtain skills to assist the much-needed workforce. This could benefit both existing and future business growth. To attract families, fiber is needed for residents to work and live where they wish. Fiber will be the key for economic growth, educational improvement, increasing incomes, and improving health. Brain health has become a major concern in Clayton County as well as the State of Iowa. Suicide is on the rise which makes access to tele-health so critical for access so we can reach, assist and help more people. Broadband is the answer to better brain health and wellbeing.

The fiber builds within the county will save our rural areas from depressed economic times, reduction in populations, closures of businesses, closures of school districts, and declining health issues. Clayton County and the southeastern area is like no other area in topography in the state. We need to preserve the landscape and wildlife but cannot sustain our communities on existing businesses and tourism alone.

Internet connectivity has increased dramatically and become even more important in many households since COVID-19 as people continue to work remotely from home; some schools are also utilizing remote learning when there is no school due to bad weather.

With technological advancements, students are also requiring more resources for school work which may not be available due to their internet connection where they live.

GMHC strongly supports all efforts to move this project forward with our support for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative wanting to expand its fiber network services in:

- ◆ Southeastern Clayton
- ◆ Clayton / Fayette Counties
- ◆ Frenchtown

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important technological progression in our immediate area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Ahlers", written in a cursive style.

Timothy Ahlers, CEO, FACHE

TA/sla



**Chamber of Commerce & Edgewood Board of Economic Development**  
**563-928-7036 director@edgewoodchamber.com**  
**104 North Washington Street, Edgewood, Iowa 52042**

March 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Edgewood Community, I am writing this letter to improve access to the Internet for Edgewood, Iowa, residents, and businesses. We support the efforts of the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission. I have been the economic development coordinator in Edgewood for over twenty-seven years, and over that time, I have witnessed the challenges that our current Internet provides. There needs to be more providers, and the cost of the service is a hindrance to families.

Our residents and businesses must have affordable and reliable service. As I write this letter, our businesses and residents are experiencing a service outage by Mediacom. This means a loss in productivity and sales today. We have over 85 companies that report retail sales in Edgewood. These businesses rely on the Internet to do their operations. We have over 900 in town and over 2,000 in the 52042 zip code. Internet service is not a luxury to these people. Internet service is a necessity that touches almost every aspect of our lives.

Please consider the request to improve Internet access in our area favorably. It is vital to improving and enhancing our economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

Elise Bergan, Edgewood Economic Development Coordinator  
Edgewood Board of Economic Development  
Edgewood Chamber of Commerce