

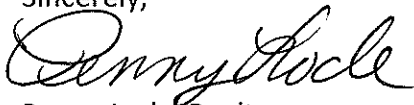
3/23/2023

To the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer of the State of Iowa:

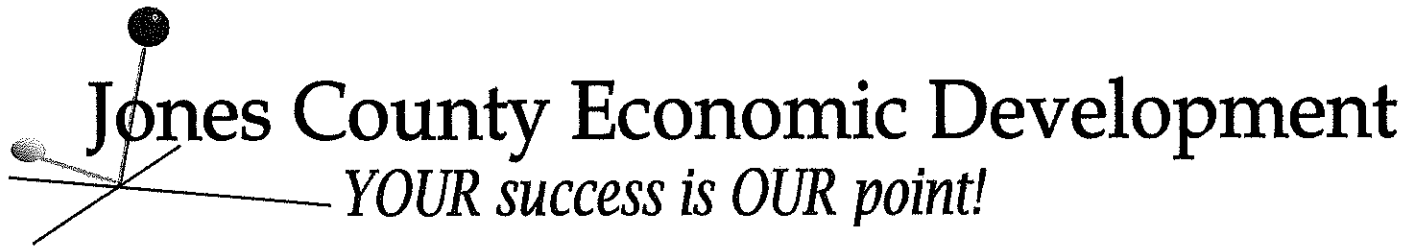
My name is Penny Lode and I live at 13818 Circle Drive just outside of Anamosa, Iowa. I work as a realtor in the community and there is a huge need to be accessible online to my clients. With the large majority of my clientele looking for listings online and inquiring online, I need to have access to respond to their questions and concerns immediately without having to drive to town to use the library or another computer station. Additionally, I need to be able to develop online functions such as housing tours, be able to jump onto video calls, etc. and that is not possible currently.

We have approached a local fiber internet provider and they have said that we would need to have enough residents on our street interested in signing up with them for them to consider moving ahead due to the costs of laying the infrastructure without assistance. We are hoping that this application by Jones County Economic Development will get our region to be included in a Broadband Intervention Zone so we have a chance to access the internet more reliably in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penny Lode".

Penny Lode, Realtor
Company Name



3/23/2023

To the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer of the State of Iowa:

My name is Julie Ahrendsen and I teach at the Anamosa school district in Jones County. Our school district extends beyond the borders of the city limits and reaches into several rural areas around the community. During the pandemic, when online learning was crucial to continued student contact and success, we noted that many of our students did not have consistent or reliable access to internet. Not only does this make it hard for them to keep up and excel, but it makes them feel even more disconnected to the learning process when they cannot complete assignments or be involved.

As a teacher, I would like all of my students to have the same access to broadband internet so that learning opportunities do not pass them by, especially when traditional learning methods are disrupted. It is my hope that this application by Jones County Economic Development for a Broadband Intervention Zone will be successful so that more of our students will have the possibility of greater access.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Ahrendsen".

Julie Ahrendsen

Anamosa Community Schools



3/23/2023

To the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer of the State of Iowa:

Jones County Economic Development is a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in Jones County by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investment and jobs, and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth. We know that this means access to reliable and quick Internet as a way to do business.

While parts of Jones County have this access, many areas still do not, leaving holes in our ability to pursue a comprehensive approach to economic development. For example, businesses are more reliant on Internet today than even ten years ago, making quality Internet a mandatory requirement of business retention and recruitment. Additionally, the workforce for these businesses needs to have access to the Internet at their homes, not only for potential work-related needs, but for their children's and family's needs as well. Finally, it adds to the overall quality of life by exposing people to greater interests and information about where they live and world at large.

As Jones County looks to grow along with the State of Iowa, it's clear that the broadband gaps have to be addressed. As can be seen in the accompanying application, Jones County Economic Development is applying for a Broadband Intervention Zone that would nearly eliminate all gaps in coverage in the county, especially if there were future funding rounds to incentivize telecom businesses to continue their expansion efforts into these underserved or unserved regions.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for designating Jones County as a Broadband Intervention Zone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 319-480-7446 or via email at director@jonescountydevelopment.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL', is placed above the printed name of the signatory.

Derek Lumsden, Executive Director
Jones County Economic Development

JONES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

P. O. BOX 109
ANAMOSA, IOWA 52205

JONES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PHONE 319-462-2378
FAX 319-462-5815

3/14/2023

To the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer of the State of Iowa:

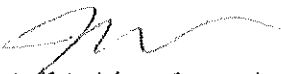
The Jones County Board of Supervisors is partnering with Jones County Economic Development to pursue an application for designation as a Broadband Intervention Zone. This designation would allow for the unserved and underserved areas of Jones County to get a chance to have access to broadband Internet, which is not the case in many of the unincorporated areas of the county. This lack of access to broadband can hinder our residents from accessing important information like weather alerts, the ability for students to not be able to complete online assignments from home, the opportunity for our workforce to engage in remote work, etc.

It is our hope that a Broadband Intervention Zone will help alleviate these problems while also allowing Jones County to become a more attractive option as our region and the State of Iowa look to encourage more growth and development. Without reliable and fast broadband access, not only does Jones County not appear as enticing to new businesses or residents, but we are also unable to guarantee retaining the population we do have.

Working with Jones County Economic Development, we have defined a geographic area in Jones County that shows the most need for broadband development. This region is either unserved by a broadband provider or a provider that has speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold. We have multiple providers that have expressed interest in developing these services, but are unable to fund the entire delivery of those services on their own. If Jones County is afforded a Broadband Intervention Zone designation, this will open up funding options for our local telecom providers to help offer these services and make Jones County more viable long-term.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for designating Jones County as a Broadband Intervention Zone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jones County Economic Development Director, Derek Lumsden, at 319-480-7446 or via email at director@jonescountydevelopment.com

Sincerely,



Jeff Swisher, Supervisor
Jones County



3/23/2023

To the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer of the State of Iowa:

Jones County Tourism is writing in favor of Jones County Economic Development's application to have Jones County designated as a Broadband Intervention Zone. Jones County is home to many great tourist attractions, including the art colony in Stone City where Grant Wood once lived and worked. However, some of these areas do not have reliable or high-speed Internet, so they are stuck in the last century in connecting with the broader tourist population.

Jones County Tourism would love to see this designation because it would allow those tourist attractions to be more visible to potential visitors. Additionally, when these visitors come to Jones County to spend time, they would have more access to reliable Internet as well as at their campgrounds, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc. By offering this amenity, it's more likely they stay longer, spend more money while here, and spread the word about how great Jones County is. But currently, we are stymied by the lack of broadband Internet across parts of Jones County to reach this goal, which is why this application is so crucial to future success.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for designating Jones County as a Broadband Intervention Zone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Derek Lumsden at 319-480-7446 or via email at director@jonescountyeconomicdevelopment.com

Sincerely,

Bob Hatcher

Bob Hatcher, Executive Director
Jones County Tourism



EAST CENTRAL IOWA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

March 22, 2023

Karen Kurt, Executive Director
East Central Iowa Council of Governments
700 16th Street NE, Suite 301
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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

Envision East Central Iowa (EECI) is the comprehensive economic development strategy for Benton, Johnson, Jones, Iowa, Linn and Washington counties. Following a robust regional stakeholder engagement process, expanding access to affordable, fast broadband was identified as a key action step towards achieving one of the EECI's seven strategic objectives: *Creating and Expanding Pathways for Shared Prosperity*.

Jones County Economic Development's application to Qualify (ITQ) for a Broadband Intervention Zone is an important step towards closing the broadband gap as outlined in Envision East Central Iowa. Jones County Economic Development, representing local businesses and residents, has identified a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability. The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) supports this application because this area is identified as being underserved in the map prepared by Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). It is our hope that the ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the area identified 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 'Kurt', written over a horizontal line.

Karen M. Kurt
Executive Director

