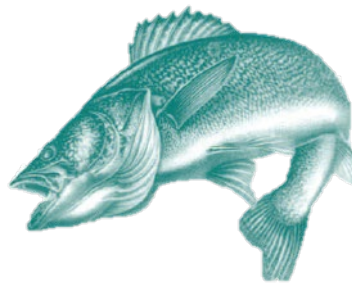




# Adams County Conservation Board

1756 Juniper Avenue  
Corning, IA 50841  
(414) 333-4700



## **Letter of Support for Broadband High-Speed Internet**

I am writing this letter in support of bringing High-Speed internet to our rural communities. I am the County Conservation Board Director for Adams County. We manage the Lake ICARIA recreation area located just north of Corning. As we progress and try to keep up in the business world we need a faster service to be able to compete in today's market place. As a park system providing recreation and entertainment to our park users, we are receiving more and more requests for internet services throughout the park. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of park users whom are working remotely and are in need of a reliable internet service. We have to send our park users to other locations where they can find better internet and WI-FI services, thus moving them out of our park. We firmly believe that bringing HI-Speed internet to the park and our rural communities would have a positive impact on our park and our user's experiences while they are visiting our area. Lake Icaria draws park users from nationwide. Many of our park users travel 90 miles or further to enjoy our outdoor recreation. This has us pulling users from large metro areas including Omaha, Council Bluffs, Des Moines and St. Joe. All of these areas provide amenities to their folks that we in smaller rural areas cannot currently provide or compete with. We are losing business to parks that are closer to larger metropolitan areas that can provide reliable high-speed internet to fill their park users needs for work and entertainment.

From the standpoint of running our business, we have become more and more dependent on a reliable internet service to book the reservations for our reservable campgrounds, shelter houses, cabins and cottages. We currently only have the option for a satellite internet service. It is slow, and the lag time in the service affects our ability to effectively run our business on a day to day basis. It is difficult to have someone on the phone and continually wait in silence while we are waiting on our slow internet service to make reservations or assist our park users. As a Conservation Board we are putting more emphasis on environmental and outdoor education. Broadband HI-Speed internet would allow us to collaborate with other educational counterparts and bring more diverse outdoor learning opportunities to our programming. We are hoping to build a new Nature and Environmental Education Center in our park in the next couple of years. Broadband internet would allow us to open this new facility with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and open classroom walls between our park guests and educational opportunities throughout the world.

Thank you for your consideration  
Travis Paul, Director  
Adams County Conservation Board



**Mercy Corning**  
603 Rosary Drive  
Corning, IA 50841

P 641.322.3121  
chihealth.com

March 21, 2023

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

CHI Health Mercy Hospital supports Adams County's Intent to Qualify Application for Broadband Services.

We are at a time in healthcare where primary care providers refer more and more often to the expertise of specialists for the best health management of their patients. However, specialist providers are limited and typically only available in a metro setting or have limited satellite clinic offerings. The communities we serve are 80 to 120 miles from a metropolitan area where these specialty medical services are offered. Transportation in our rural area is a major concern, with circumstances such as residents being financially unable to have reliable transportation, elderly residents being unable to navigate a metro area, and the lack of public transportation options available. This makes telemedicine technology critical for our area, as it allows patients the opportunity to see a healthcare provider without having to travel for each visit. Poor internet service within the rural region we serve, including the targeted area referenced by Adams County's application, can negatively impact a patient's access to healthcare, and thus their health.

The lack of broadband in our area dramatically affects the patient's ability to connect to virtual care visits from home, oftentimes having to resort to a phone/audio connection only and the patient and provider are unable to see one another. The lack of a reliable, consistent high-speed connection leaves the provider unable to fully assess the patient. In addition, the absence of video can sacrifice the personal interaction between the patient and provider, which can make discussion and decisions more difficult to understand. We also experience internet connectivity issues within our facility, causing us to have to move locations or delay care due to frequent attempts to reestablish a reliable, fast connection. Meeting with specialists can already have an impact of apprehension for patients, and frequent interruptions and lagging or delays due to poor internet connections does not help with these feelings or their care. Not only is it frustrating for the patient, but for the provider as well, as they want to be able to give the patients their full attention, listen to their needs and address their concerns during the telehealth visit.

We believe everyone deserves access to exceptional healthcare. Having reliable broadband available to this area can make a considerable difference in improving the health and well-being of our communities through quality telemedicine visits.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Mensing BSN, RN, CEN".

Jennifer Mensing, BSN, RN, CEN  
Nursing Supervisor  
CHI Health Mercy Corning

# City of Corning

601 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Corning, Iowa 50841  
641-322-4230  
641-322-3096 Fax  
[mayor@corningia.net](mailto:mayor@corningia.net)  
[cchall@corningia.net](mailto:cchall@corningia.net)

**Administration:**  
Janice Mercer Leonard  
Mayor

Michelle Kennedy  
City Clerk/Treasurer

---

**Council Members:**

1<sup>st</sup> Ward – Gary Badgett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ward – Jerry Peckham  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ward – Adam Goodvin  
At Large – Dalton Davis  
At Large – Bert Peckham

March 23, 2023

To: Office of the Chief Information Officer  
State of Iowa

The City of Corning supports Adams County's application in response to the OCIO invitation to qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. As representatives of the businesses and residents of our community, we know and understand the extreme importance of quality and consistent broadband for our community.

Two of the challenges in our area is loss of population and availability of workforce. The lack of consistent, reliable high-speed internet is a major contributing factor. Also, several of our businesses would like to support work-at-home opportunities to both hire and retain their employees, but they have the same challenge.

The County's prospective Intervention Zone would bring needed broadband connectivity to underserved homes and businesses in the area which would also positively impact our community. Quality broadband and consistent connectivity is vital to Corning, Adams County and the region.

Thank you for consideration in this ITQ process.

Sincerely,



Janice M. Leonard  
Mayor