



Sheriff J.L. Vandewater

Adair County Sheriff's Office

302 E. Iowa Street
Greenfield, Iowa 50849
(641)743-2148

JVandewater@adaircountysos.org

March 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I reside at 2389 Adair-Madison Avenue Winterset, Adair County, Iowa. I am the Adair County Sheriff. I have seen many changes over my 25 year career, especially in the last ten years as it relates to computer usage.

Computers have totally changed how law enforcement communicates with my own as well as outside agencies. Computer usage was already vital prior to 2020, but then the Covid pandemic seemed to solidify internet access as a basic necessity through the use of video conferencing, distancing and working from home. Court hearings, intelligence meetings, completing web based State of Iowa accident reports and online based trainings are just some of the duties that I cannot perform at home. Additionally, we have found our home satellite internet cannot support Zoom meetings, for instance. Therefore, I must drive into the Adair County Sheriff's Office to get a somewhat reliable connection.

On occasion, time is of the essence and as I am "on call" 24 hours per day. It would be an unbelievable asset to be able to save the round trip 30 minute drive to the office to take care of a simple task from home.

My wife, Candy Vandewater, is the Senior Director for US Market Access & Reimbursement for Sarepta Therapeutics based out of Boston, Massachusetts. Through Covid, she worked almost exclusively from home. She struggled with online meetings and large projects and would often times leave home to obtain better service. Candy's position as a Senior Director of Sarepta Therapeutics, is playing a vital part in the preparation to launch a treatment for a rare form of muscular dystrophy. This preparation requires her to communicate via video conferencing with some of the most advanced hospitals in the United States who will soon administer the DNA altering treatment. She also has the need to communicate and plan with the various State entities in charge of that State's Medicaid program. Poor internet connections have plagued her for years!

I have a son in college at Benedictine University in Mesa, Arizona and a daughter that attends Winterset High School and later will attend Oklahoma State University. Both of their educations were negatively affected during the pandemic and will continue to be affected in the future, due to the lack of a reliable, high speed broadband connection. Fortunately, both children were of the age where they could either obtain transportation somewhere in order to complete their assignments or were able to drive themselves.

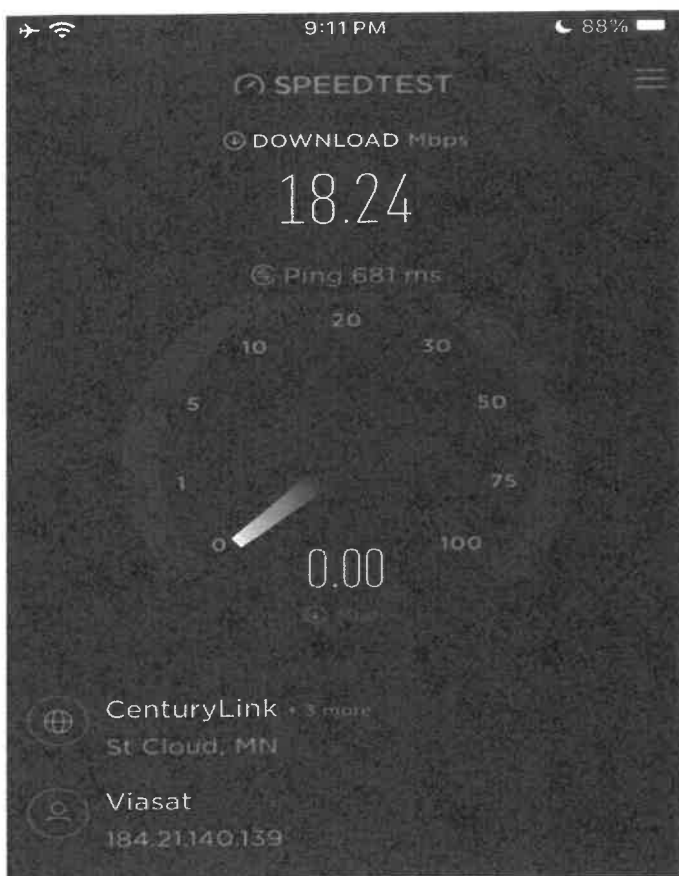
Due to the location of our residence, we have very limited internet options. Any assistance that could be provided would be greatly appreciated.

I have also taken a screen shot of an internet speed test that I conducted last night. It should be noted that we were unable to watch a Netflix series last night due to our poor connection.

Sincerely,

/Jeffrey L. Vandewater/

Adair County Sheriff



March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We fully support Adair County's request to qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone. As rural residents, we enjoy the farm life but still require high-speed internet just as we had while living in the Las Vegas valley.

Our household is comprised of my father, son, husband and myself. We all heavily rely on the internet. My father, who just celebrated his 93rd birthday, spends his day playing Solitaire on his computer as well as streaming Western movies and TV shows. He is a veteran of the Korean War and has painful arthritis in his shoulders, hips and knees. Due to his limited mobility, he would benefit from accessing doctors remotely when needed.


After earning his associate degree, our son decided to return to school to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is starting classes at a university with on-line classes and will continue to work part-time to avoid incurring debt from a student loan. To effectively balance his work and school time requirements, he will require the access to reliable internet service to be successful.

My husband and I manage the family farm and are active with non-profit groups. For example, I am the President of Chapter CA of P.E.O., an international organization whose mission is to educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans. I often work with students to submit on-line applications for funding as well as submitting various reports to the state office, both which have specific deadlines. Some of our local chapter meetings and all the "Townhall Meetings" I attend as Chapter President with other chapters are held via Zoom. It is extremely frustrating when you get dropped from a meeting providing you with important information and even more so when you get drop from a meeting that you are leading.

The need for reliable high-speed internet service in our home is a necessity. Unfortunately, we do not currently have that. Our current service is slow (see speed test below) and we have experienced extended periods where it has not been available.

We simply want what many other Americans have which is access to a reliable source of high-speed internet service. It is especially frustrating for us as we had that at one time but lost it when we moved to the country. Please help us get it back.

Sincerely,


Jayne Steffen-Mazurkiewicz
Kevin and Christopher Mazurkiewicz
Wayne Steffen



2468 Trenton Avenue
Greenfield, Iowa 50849

March 23, 2023

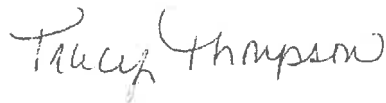
To whom it may concern:

My husband and I currently live in the prospective Broadband Intervention Zone for Adair County and can attest to the need of higher internet speeds in the area. Even with an internet connection, our connection is very slow and often unresponsive, making even an easy task very difficult and time consuming. My husband is self-employed and relies on the internet to create invoices, make purchases, and communicate with his customers. We also rely on the internet for educational opportunities. We are currently taking online courses to learn American Sign Language as one of our granddaughters is Deaf. Since we live in a rural area, there are no opportunities, other than online, to learn ASL. Attending the online Zoom sessions for these courses can be very frustrating with the unreliable internet we currently utilize and can make it very difficult to learn when there are multiple connection interruptions.

There are also many people within the Intervention Zone who do not have any options for internet service. Our son and his family who also live in this area are an example of this. He has three children, all of whom would benefit from having a fast, reliable internet connection. Our education system is navigating towards needing internet access for all educational materials and assignments for school. Without internet, this will affect our grandchildren's ability to learn and succeed.

We appreciate your consideration of improving the broadband infrastructure within Adair County and believe it would truly benefit our rural community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tracy Thompson
Resident of Adair County

To Whom It May Concern:

I live at 2698 270th Street Greenfield, Iowa 50849. I am currently self employed, run a repair business and farm. My business requires me to be on a computer with internet that has consistant service and a decent speed. I also have school aged children that require internet to do research and homework.

Currently our only option for internet is satelite, and we pay \$110 a month. There have been several occations where I have had to pay between \$300 and \$600 dollars extra for credits to be able to have speeds to be able to do computer software updates. We consistantly have slow speeds, especially in the evening, making it unreliable for our child to be able to finish homework. Its very hard to do much work between 1:00 and 10:00pm.

Please support Adair County's request to qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone.

Sincerely,

Nathan Baier

March 23rd 2023

Dear readers,

I am writing this letter in regards to the recent talk about an Adair county grant that could possibly fund the SE portion / corner of the county. I can tell you it is a long time coming but an optimal time for our family to take advantage of a faster more reliable internet option.

We have 3 children all of which attend the Nodaway valley school district. Education is changing and having the same ability as every other student is a necessity. I am also enrolled in a pilot program through SWCC and in my second year in a Pilot program for building operators. This is an online course only through Zoom so obviously I am traveling into town to complete this task. I also work at the Nodaway Valley and CAM district schools as the facilities director. Having access to a reliable internet would make my job way easier. All three buildings operate our heating and cooling through a controls company and everything is web based and difficult to access on our home internet connection. That means if an event isn't published and the scheduled run time needs to be corrected. Well you guessed it, another trip to town. My wife has recently taken a part time position through the Adair county health and fitness center coordinating youth and adult programs. Which also has allowed her to complete a lot of tasks at home that all require an internet connection.

We currently have access to the internet through Verizon. I have always joked that Verizon has had an internet and mobile phone monopoly on our home. For the last 5-7 years I have made random calls to see if Verizon has any competition. Some of the companies I have reached out to are Coon Valley Telephone, Windstream, Cumberland Telephone Co., T-mobile, US cellular, starlink, etc.

I also know of several neighbors who could benefit and support improving the broadband infrastructure. I have 3 partially vacant neighbors that have vacation / cabin getaways within one mile of my home. They all rely on security systems to protect and watch their personal property. I received notice of this exciting news merely hours ago and had troubles connecting to our hotspot to actually type this. So if you don't have an overwhelming response from our hebron area don't let that fool you into thinking our area would not take advantage of your thoughts to improve our rural internet difficulties.

I believe this gives rural residents more options other than a town job to help supplement a farm income. Work from home jobs/careers are more common now than ever before and that is something residents in our area could potentially take full advantage of. I will be forwarding this news on to contacts in our area even though you may not get responses in the needed time period.

Our family appreciates the thought into upgrading rural internet options in Adair county.

Thank you,
Nick and Mandy Thompson

To Whom It May Concern:

I live at 2728 Henry A. Wallace Dr., Greenfield, Iowa 50849.

We are a family of 4.

I currently work from home when I am able to and use our own personal computer for keeping track of our personal records, etc.

My business computer requires a consistent and considerable amount of data and download/upload speeds. My wife also uses a computer for her work sometimes at home. We have two teenage children that are both in high school that use computers for their homework and school projects.

Currently our only option for internet is satellite, which we pay \$164.31 per month. We run out of data with time left in the month, which slows our speeds down even more.

We consistently have slow speeds, which makes our connection unreliable and you spend more time waiting on buffering than doing your actual work or research. Our children usually can't do their homework here because our internet is not fast enough, so we have to drive to the local library or my wife's work in order for them to complete something that they should be able to accomplish at home. These travels are anywhere from 15 miles round trip to 26 miles round trip, so on top of the \$164.31 we pay per month, we also have to pay for fuel wear and tear on our vehicles because our internet can't meet our needs!

As for myself, working from home is a struggle everyday. I can't take calls which are through our computer system or Microsoft Teams because the ping rate is so high that it is like you are talking on a cell phone from the early 90s in a river bottom with very little signal, which means you can't make out what I am speaking. So I have to use my personal cell phone for business calls. I can't share items on my screen during meetings because it is all broken up, and takes forever to upload or download documents.

When I have to do computer updates or deal with our IT department, I have to drive to Greenfield to my parents home where they have high speed internet so that the fixes can be applied on my computer because IT said my internet connection is too slow to perform the updates or fixes reasonably because they just error out if tried at my home. This in turn causes extra time for me and is round trip of 18 miles for me so also wear and tear on a vehicle for again something that I pay for that should meet my needs!

This is very frustrating and it should not still be this way in 2023 especially in the county where windmills are providing energy for a large area of the state, yet we still don't have highspeed fiber internet to the homes in our area. They ran underground wiring and fiber optic line to the windmills, yet they left out running any fiber lines to the homes in the area that have to look at these windmills and put up with the sound and shadows from them.

I would greatly appreciate having fiber optic lines ran to our home and any other homes in our area so that way we can all benefit from high speed internet.

Please support Adair County's request to qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone because we



March 22, 2023

To whom it may concern;

Crossroads Behavioral Health supports Adair County's Intent to Qualify Application for Broadband Services.

Tele counseling is critical for our area, as it allows clients the opportunity to see a provider without having to travel for each visit. Transportation in our rural area is a considerably large concern, with our communities being 80-120 miles from a metro area and 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. Poor internet service within the rural region we serve includes the targeted area referenced by Adair County's application. The lack of broadband availability dramatically affects the client's ability to connect to virtual counseling visits from home, oftentimes having to resort to a phone/audio connection only. This means the client and provider are unable to see each other. The lack of a reliable, consistent high-speed connection does not allow for a better assessment by the provider, a better connection between the client and provider, as well as putting the client at ease.

We have frequently experienced issues with internet connectivity when conducting telehealth with clients. Not only does this cause a delay in care due to frequent attempts to reconnect, but with multiple interruptions in connection causing a delay in the appointment, makes the clients feel more anxious and uncertain. Meeting with providers can already have an impact of anxiety and uncertainty for clients, and frequent interruptions due to poor connections does not help with their care. Not only is it frustrating for the client, but the provider as well. They want to give the client their full attention and listen to the client needs during the telehealth visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brittany Palmer'.

Brittany Palmer
Executive Director
1003 Cottonwood Rd
Creston IA 50801

WINTERSET

102 W. SUMMIT PO BOX 539
WINTERSET, IOWA 50273
641-462-3105

CRESTON

1003 COTTONWOOD RD.
CRESTON, IOWA 50801
641-782-8457

OSCEOLA

405 E. MCLANE
OSCEOLA, IOWA 50213
641-342-4888

March 23, 2023

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

Adair County Health System supports Adair County's Intent to Qualify Application for Broadband Services.

Transportation in our rural area is a major concern, with our communities being 80-120 miles from a metro area with specialty medical services, and 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.

Telemedicine is critical for our area, as it allows patients the opportunity to see a provider without having to travel for each visit. Poor internet service within the rural region we serve limits residents ability to utilize telemedicine services. The lack of broadband availability dramatically affects the patient's ability to connect to virtual care visits from home, oftentimes having to resort to a phone/audio connection only. This means the patient and provider are unable to see each other. The lack of a reliable, consistent high-speed connection does not allow for a better assessment by the provider, a better connection between the patient and provider, as well as putting the patient at ease. We are looking at expanding our specialty clinic practices, which includes incorporating more telehealth outreach services that will allow patients to connect with specialists without having to travel to the metro. Increasing our broadband connections would help patients be able to utilize our services without interruption.

In addition the Adair County Health System operates a hospital based Emergency Medical Services Ambulance which serves the population targeted by increased internet service. EMS utilizes a secure internet connection to complete patient care reports and link into telemedicine services as pertinent to each patient's needs.

Thank you,

Philicia Hancock, Chief Clinical Officer for Adair County Health System

Chris Roberts, EMS Manager for Adair County Health System

Nodaway Valley Community School District

Paul Croghan, Superintendent
paul.croghan@nodawayvalley.org

410 NW Second Street
Greenfield, IA 50849
www.nodawayvalley.org

James Larson, Prek-5 Principal
Gerry Miller, 5-12 Principal/AD

Phone: 641-743-6127

FAX: 641-343-7173

March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Adair County's efforts to improve the broadband infrastructure throughout the county.

In an ever-changing technological world, we are seeing the value of a quality internet infrastructure. We see our role as the school district to prepare our students to be able to navigate the future as well as support the community. Students can be connected globally and still live in a rural Adair County. The infrastructure improvements to get fiber optics in rural areas is a game changer.

Economic development and supporting small businesses give a much better opportunity with improve connections. As the superintendent of the school district one of our goals was counterproductive before the internet started making connections nationally and globally. We would educate our students and they would have to leave our communities to live in a metropolitan area for the qualified jobs they were seeking with their post-secondary education.

With the improved infrastructure our students may leave to get their qualifications but will have a better chance of returning to our community to live and work. The school district can provide more educational opportunities and support the vitalization of the community with the improved broadband infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting Adair County's efforts to improve broadband infrastructure for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Paul Croghan

Paul Croghan
Nodaway Valley Superintendent

ORIENT-MACKSBURG

Community School District

**Administration**

Mr. Shawn Holloway, Superintendent
Mr. Daniel Grandfield, K-12 Principal
www.o-mschools.org

201 S School Street, PO Box 129
Orient, IA 50858-0129
Phone 641-337-5061

Fax Number
641-335-5550

Date: March 22, 2023

Re: Fiber Optic Internet to Orient and Southeast Adair County

To: Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the Fiber Optic Internet project in Orient and Southeast Adair County. There is a digital divide in Iowa between households that have access to broadband services and those that don't. This divide impacts students, families and communities alike who don't have access, but who need to participate in a virtual world. While there are a number of factors that can lead to non-adoption, including lack of interest, lack of availability and cost, this project focuses on those students and families that are unable to access home broadband service without subscription support. Without access to a reliable, broadband connection available to families in their homes, some students will struggle to keep up. We urge you to approve this project so that we can overcome the divide that exists for some families in our school district.

Sincerely,

Orient-Macksburg CSD Superintendent

Vision Statement: Engage, Educate, Empower...Everyday

Mission Statement: The mission of the Orient-Macksburg Community School District is to foster intellectual, social, and personal development of its students. Our goal is to prepare students to be positive contributors to their communities and responsible citizens.