

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Kisha Jahner, Chair
Mark Raymie
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To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

Marion County, Iowa is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. This zone features major growth corridors along four-lane highway 5 and 163 as well as primary highways which include 92 and 14.

Broadband is a critical component to rural growth and this portion of our county has needs for enhanced services for both residents and businesses. As such, we are proposing that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established for the area which includes areas near Pleasantville, Otley, Knoxville and Lake Red Rock, Iowa's largest lake.

Marion County ranks in the top 1% of US counties for percentage of jobs in manufacturing with nearly 8,000 manufacturing jobs. In the past 5 years, over 1,000 new manufacturing jobs were added. Marion County has invested nearly \$20 million in housing projects around the county. In addition, tourism to Marion County generates over \$55 million.

It is our hope that the ITQ application and review by the OCIO will designate the northwest corner of Marion County as a geographic area of concern by designating it a Broadband Intervention Zone.

Sincerely,

Kisha Jahner, Chair