

CITY OF SCHLESWIG

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Robert Andersen
Mayor of Schleswig
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Schleswig, Iowa, 51461

March 31st, 2023

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

Region XII Council of Governments (COG) is submitting this application on Behalf of the City of Schleswig and other surrounding communities in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. The community of Schleswig has identified the region in and around the city as an area of concern with regards to broadband access. Greater availability of broadband and communication services in the area will enhance the quality of life for currently unserved and underserved residents.

Region XII and the City of Schleswig propose that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established within a 2 mile radius of 401 Elm Street, Schleswig, Iowa, located in Northwestern Crawford County. The area is currently served by two main providers, but lack of available funding has posed barriers to providers in the region. This has left many rural residents either without coverage or with limited options for service.

As more workplaces and businesses transitioning to an online format, we do not want our community to be left behind. Designating this area as a Broadband Intervention zone will be beneficial to the City of Schleswig for a multitude of reasons. Current providers will be able to reach rural customers while keeping service costs to a minimal amount and greater range of services will also invite possible economic development to the area.

We believe that our community exceeds expectations for qualification in the next Iowa Broadband Grant Program and sincerely hope that the OCIO will designate the City of Schleswig as an Intervention Zone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Robert Andersen
Mayor of Schleswig
(712) 676-3374

Robert Andersen, Mayor

To Whom it May Concern

My Name is Rory Degen, owner of Premier Ag Supply LLC a business I started in July of 2019 in rural Schleswig IA. With ground at a premium in town I was able to purchase some outside of town to build my building. In the rush of building a new building to start my business internet was one of the last things on my mind. The lack of options was concerning as I had to go with the only option available at the time. Service at times out here has been unreliable and has cost me days of getting anything done because my internet was down. Secondly as a resident of the town of Schleswig for the past 11+ years I have had 4 residences as I have been able to upgrade my housing situation with the success of my career. All the places I have lived I have had reliable internet until my last move in June of 2022. I was able to purchase a house on the local golf course (in my mind a newer part of town) and I come to find out the local internet company that I have had since I have moved to Schleswig is full in that part of town with no plans to install any more service lines in that part of town. I had to scramble to find some sort of internet service and in town and my options were again limited and the service is no where near reliable enough to do all the things I use the internet for (TV streaming, online gaming, internet shopping). The lack of competition in the town has made the one company in town complacent with keeping up with the technology and the town has and will continue to suffer. With people looking to relocate to rural areas Schleswig will be overlooked with the lack of internet service needed for those people.

Rory Degen

Owner

Premier Ag Supply LLC

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