



Letter of Support

March 30th, 2023
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Re: 'Invitation to Qualify – Louisa County, IA'

As Executive Director of Louisa Development Group, I would like to provide my support for the development and expansion of broadband in Louisa County.

A lack of high-speed broadband access in Louisa County presents a loss of opportunity for residents and businesses alike.

Rural areas often suffer from a lack of broadband access due to low population density. For many internet service providers (ISP), there simply aren't enough customers in the rural areas to make a return on their investment. Government funding is critical to assisting in the development of broadband and increasing connectivity in rural areas.

Geographic obstacles are another issue affecting broadband access in rural areas. Here in Louisa County, we have areas that are cut off from broadband access due to hills, bluffs, and tree cover. Users are often left with no or limited access due to poor or no line of sight, which is crucial for wireless connection with broadband towers.

With support from the OCIO and the State of Iowa, we can make the necessary upgrades to provide high-speed, reliable broadband service state-wide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cole Smith".

Cole Smith

Executive Director, Louisa Development Group

(319) 523-2371 x206

cjsmith3@iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Whitney Howell
Louisa County
317 Van Buren Street
Wapello, IA 52653
Phone: 319-523-2371 Ext. 202
whowell@iastate.edu

To whom it may concern,

ISU Extension and Outreach Louisa County is committed to supporting the growth and development of our local community. As such, we are writing to express our strong support for the expansion of broadband internet access in our county.

Broadband internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and residents alike. Access to reliable, high-speed internet is critical for economic development, education, healthcare, and social connectedness. Unfortunately, many of our rural communities are currently underserved or have no access to broadband internet, which can limit their ability to fully participate in our digital society.

We believe that expanding broadband internet access in Louisa County is crucial to ensuring that our community remains competitive and connected. The benefits of broadband internet access are numerous and include:

Increased economic opportunities: Businesses with high-speed internet are better equipped to compete in a global economy and can create new jobs and opportunities.

Improved education and workforce development: Broadband internet access can help students and job seekers access educational resources and job training programs.

Better access to healthcare: Telemedicine and remote healthcare services are becoming increasingly common, but are only possible with reliable broadband internet access.

Enhanced quality of life: Broadband internet can help residents stay connected with friends and family, access entertainment and cultural resources, and more.

We urge you to prioritize the expansion of broadband internet access in Louisa County. We believe that this investment in our community's future will pay dividends for years to come.

Sincerely,



ISU Extension and Outreach Louisa County
County Director