

ALAN YAHNKE

RON BRIDE

DAVE HENDERSON

Chairman

**DAVIS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Davis County Courthouse 100 Courthouse Square, Suite 1 Bloomfield, IA 52537

PH (641) 664-2344

FAX (641) 664-1395

March 28, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program – Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Invitation to Qualify application for Van Buren County's Broadband Intervention Zones for portions of rural Van Buren, Davis and Jefferson counties, as it would address the lack of adequate broadband internet access and connectivity in the area. By designating these areas as intervention zones for future investment in broadband, this would create a significant opportunity to reach many citizens who currently lack access to reliable broadband services.

Specifically, the locations in NE Davis County are locations that are geographically isolated. These locations are in a "donut hole" where all of the surrounding locations have access to fiber based internet service from Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative, either as part of their incumbent service area or their expansion area made possible by previous grant funding rounds. Without a broadband grant award, these locations will likely never receive adequate broadband service and being included in a Broadband Intervention Zone will significantly increase the likelihood that these areas will finally be served.

We respectfully ask you to consider the designation of an invention zone that includes these locations that we represent as a county supervisors. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area in NE Davis County.

Sincerely,
The Davis County Board of Supervisors



Chairman, Ron Bride

lh

March 29, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program – Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Invitation to Qualify application for Van Buren County's broadband intervention zones for portions of the rural areas in and around the Douds, IA community.

I am a resident of this area and can attest to the lack of broadband service that is available to the residents in this area and respectfully ask you to approve the area in the application as a broadband intervention zone. In the latest state broadband map, my location shows to be served with a maximum of 184 mbps down and 52 mbps up but this is an exaggeration of the level of service available at my home. Up until recently, I was the technician for the wireline company that serves this area and I took extraordinary steps to get the highest service at my home and the best that was attainable was 25 mbps downstream. My neighbors did not have my resources available and are not able to get any reasonable level of service.

Even with the exaggerated coverage in this area, it still shows that there are many unserved and underserved locations in the geographic area of interest. This area is very well deserving of being designated as a broadband intervention zone to increase the likelihood of a provider submitting a grant application to provide reliable internet service this area needs.

Respectfully,



Todd Newcomb
16083 ROUTE V64
Douds, IA 52551