



Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

March 27, 2023

This letter is in recommendation of Benton Development Group for the Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone (Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program) to enhance the areas opportunity to bring broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Benton County. We have all been made keenly aware of the importance of high-speed broadband since the COVID pandemic, which heightened the awareness and needs to work from home, educate from home and receive health services from home. High speed internet access has become critical to our daily lives.

Benton Development Group has identified areas in Benton County as deserving of this critical infrastructure. The Broadband Intervention Zone designation ensures customers in the area will have an opportunity to participate in the broadband world that allows them the technology to work, play and enrich their lives for many years to come. This broadband technology can become a reality with potential funding directed to broadband intervention zones.

La Porte City Telephone Company has managed fiber networks in the area since 2013 and are well versed in the advantages that advanced broadband technology, primarily fiber networks, can offer businesses and residences of rural Iowa, particularly Benton County.

It is my honor to recommend Benton Development Group for this grant and I trust you will find them to be a worthy candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hopp', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Hopp

General Manager

La Porte City Telephone Company

LPC CONNECT

306 MAIN STREET | LA PORTE CITY, IOWA 50651

319.342.3369 | www.lpctel.com