



March 23, 2023

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

Madison County Development Group (MCDG) is applying in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation for the **North Central Madison County Area**, which is a collection of rural areas generally immediately north of Winterset City limits. This application filing was delegated to MCDG by the Madison County Board of Supervisors by resolution, which was in parallel also adopted by the MCDG Board and is referenced in this application. And as Executive Director of MCDG, I am authorized to implement that joint resolution.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors and MCDG investigated broadband adequacy in this area through financially participating in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Broadband Study. That study reviewed State of Iowa OCIO maps of broadband availability, FCC maps of awarded incentive funding, network maps from broadband providers, survey data, and other sources that in summary indicate inadequate broadband service in this area.

To validate concerns that residents and businesses are being impacted, MCDG recently directly inquired about broadband adequacy at the specific addresses in this proposed zone. Most of the validated residents' testimonial responses report deficiencies, and many impact work, education, and remote health. These findings parallel those reported in the Broadband Study stakeholder group meetings.

The Broadband Study process also included receiving input from area broadband providers on their network extension plans. MCDG appreciates they are making substantial investments in many areas of the county that are economically viable. The selection of this area for this application is primarily based on a high level of concern that it has particular geographic location and population density features that inhibit new broadband provider investment, without receiving programmatic public funding assistance. Written responses from community entities, residents' testimonials received, and other materials contained in this application validate the concerns contained in the Board's enclosed Resolution of Support with potential community broadband capital offerings.

Thank you for your consideration of the Madison County ITQ applications. Please contact me at 515-462-1891 or tom@madisoncountydevelopment.com with questions or concerns about matters related to this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Leners", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Leners
Executive Director

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