

## Whomever it may concern:

My name is Kim Dudley, and I am in the Telecommunications/Broadband industry for over 20 years, and I am very aware of the importance a fiber connection. When I am attending a state and national event, there is always a session on connectivity for EVERYONE! Which should also include rural Iowa. It is true, rural Iowa is made of family farms and acres of crops lowering the penetration numbers.

For me personally, I work from home and my options are few for reliable internet. I am constantly having to pause a meeting or call back in due to my internet 'dropping'.

I have been crusading for Fiber Connectivity for my area for over 5 years, even speaking with Shirley Bloomfield, on how there are areas within Iowa, the state with more Telephone Coops than any other state, has vast areas that are underserved.

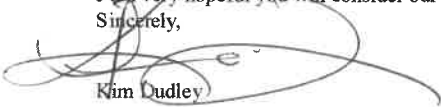
Bringing connectivity to our area would be beneficial for me and my neighbors.

- One neighbor works in the Nuclear Energy industry and must go to his mother in Law's when he is on call because he has to have guaranteed access to the internet.
- A disabled neighbor could benefit from Tele-Medicine, and it be more convenient for her instead of having her husband stop his work to drive her into the doctor's office.
- Another neighbor has a million-dollar hog confinement which requires a 24-hour alarm system and relies on an outdated landline, where the provider is constantly badgering them to disconnect as it is the only one for miles.
- Not to mention, we have school age children and teachers in the Spencer Grove area, and they rely on broadband when there are school cancelations due to weather

If the pandemic has taught us one thing, it was the importance of broadband. Before the pandemic, internet was 'nice to have' but not a necessity for day to day living. The word has changed, with home schooling, telemedicine services, and working remotely, and are now considered the normal way of life. My daughter is an operations manager for a mortgage company and her fiancée is a realtor, they have commented numerous times, the value of our acreage is below average due to not having a fiber broadband connection. I am always jealous when I go to their home, and they have Alexa; stream tv; Ring Doorbell; etc. My grandson's can not be on their tablet's when I am working during the day because the internet I have, does not have enough bandwidth.

I am very hopeful you will consider our area for your fiber expansion.

Sincerely,



Kim Dudley  
[Kim.dudley@Nisc.coop](mailto:Kim.dudley@Nisc.coop)  
319-651-5377  
3212 50<sup>th</sup> ST Dr  
Walker IA 52352

# BUCHANAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CLAYTON OHRT  
DAWN VOGEL  
JOHN KURTZ



Buchanan County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 317  
Independence, IA 50644  
Phone: (319) 334-3578  
Fax: (319) 334-4234

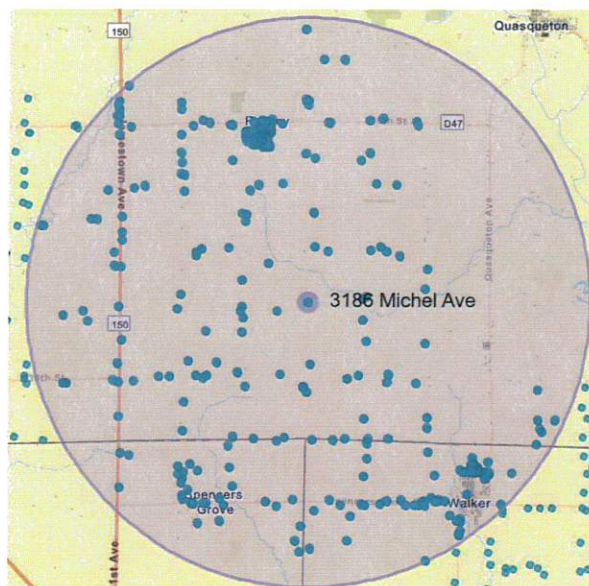
Clayton Ohrt  
Chair – Buchanan County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 317  
Independence, IA 50644

March 20, 2023

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

The Buchanan County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC) is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. The BCEDC, representing local businesses and residents all across Buchanan County Iowa, has collaborated with East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative to identify a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability.

As such, the BCEDC is proposing that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established for the area **covering south-central Buchanan County extending from Overland Avenue west to Highway 150, and from approximately 290<sup>th</sup> Street south to 51<sup>st</sup> Street (D62) in Linn and Benton Counties.** Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, this area is currently served by broadband providers with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity. A map of the proposed ITQ area is below:



As the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, it is our hope that the ITQ application and review of same by OCIO will designate this area in Buchanan County and extending into Linn County as a geographic area of concern / Broadband Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program. Buchanan County shall in its kind support coordinate with the contractor to make modification of the road to cause the least amount of damage and restore the road at the time of completion.

We fully support this effort to bring more reliable broadband to our rural areas to support economic development for businesses, and to further facilitate endeavors for remote work, remote studying, and for remote healthcare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clayton Ohrt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clayton Ohrt  
Chair – Buchanan County Board of Supervisors  
Independence, Iowa  
(319) 334-3578

## To Whom it May Concern

I am a Nuclear Inspections Project Manager for General Electric and a father of a 3 and 5-year-old. We moved to Walker, Iowa to get away from the hustle and bustle of living at the beach in North Carolina, and love every part of the community we live in except for access to high speed internet. My job takes place at various nuclear power plants around the world and involves reviewing large amounts of high-definition video. GE has invested in the ability of inspectors like myself to be able to perform the work remotely rather than traveling to various sites for several weeks at a time; however, this option is not available to me due to the need for high-speed internet. Instead, I must travel to either the site location or my company's headquarters to do the data review. This is time away from my family that is very valuable to me. We have tried several different ISPs with varying degrees of performance. The topography in our area is a limiting factor for any line-of-sight transmission. The highest point in Benton County is less than a mile due west of our community and there is well over 100' of drop to our house. The water tower in Walker hosts one ISP that we tried; however, the service was intermittent at best with several outages a month sometimes lasting a couple of days. Even when the service was active, the speeds were insufficient due to the signal passing through about a quarter mile of dense forest- part of the reason we love where we live. I have had to switch cellular providers to even have a chance of getting a signal, and worry about when I am not home if something happens to a family member and they will not be able to reach me. We have wifi security cameras that ease my wife's mind when I am away, but the delay time in being able to view live videos is a hindrance. Additionally, with one child in pre-school, and another about to start in the fall, I worry about them falling behind without access to high-speed internet. I personally feel the need to shelter them from technology as long as possible; however, being able to learn remotely and interact digitally with friends and family is a necessity in this world. My wife is a full-time mom with a part-time income stream from selling items online. She lists items online to various marketplaces and often requires interaction with buyers and coordination of shipping. With her busy day of raising our children, every second is precious. Faster internet would give her more time for the important things in life rather than waiting for a photo to upload.

Please consider my letter in your selection process for future services.



Brian Cooper  
[Brian.L.Cooper@GE.com](mailto:Brian.L.Cooper@GE.com)  
910-880-0163  
3229 50<sup>th</sup> Street Drive  
Walker, Iowa 52352

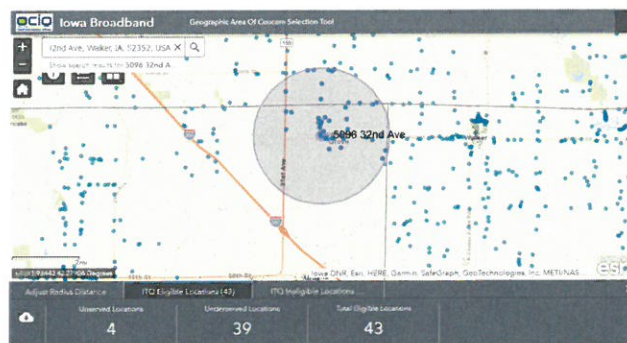
March 23, 2023

Buchanan County Economic Development Commission  
112 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, Suite B  
Independence, IA 50644

Greetings,

I, Tai Burkhart, am writing in support of the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission and express my support for their ITQ application. Furthermore, that East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative will be able to secure the grant funding for this project. They are a very reputable company and in my professional role as the Public Health Director, they were extremely great to work with throughout the COVID Pandemic response.

Personally, I have lived in an underserved area (see map below) for the past six years. It has been almost impossible to have access to reliable high-speed internet at our current address of 5096 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Walker, IA, 52352. Without fiber lines/utility companies providing service the past few years we used US Cellular for our internet. It was slow and unreliable. We recently switched to Starlink which is much faster & more reliable, however living in an area with dense trees I am not sure that will be the case with full foliage.



I have children in grade school who often have assignments requiring the use of the internet. There have been times which I have had to take my children to my parents or my mother-in-law's home to utilize their internet for school work. This was especially the case during the pandemic. The lack of quality internet has also made it challenging when I have had to work from home and most often it is easier to travel the 18 miles to my office to handle after hours work.

I am hopeful Buchanan County's ITQ application is approved and will be quality internet to our underserved area.

Thank you,

Tai Burkhart