



# CENTRAL DEWITT

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

331 East 8th Street, Box 110, DeWitt, IA 52742

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association. (Grand Mound). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Grand Mound. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our school district. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Central DeWitt Community School District has a large geographical footprint, and we are struggling to keep out students connected, especially during this pandemic. We have been 1:1 with laptops or ipads for the past 10 years. While we are providing devices for students, many of them still do not have quality internet access while they are at home to complete homework and online learning. This grant would greatly enhance our ability to move the education of our students forward greatly.

Our school district has had a strong relationship with Grand Mound for many years. Grand Mound has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Central DeWitt Community School District students, families, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent

July 30, 2020

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association. (Grand Mound). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Grand Mound. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our grain bin business. With the assistance of this grant, Grand Mound's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

With our business, we erect grain bins for the rural farmers, in which they have the capability of monitoring these grain drying systems off site from their cell phones or home computers but Internet access must be available in these rural areas. There are times this doesn't work because of the lack of Internet connectivity or slow speeds. If Grand Mound Telephone can make upgrades to improve Internet availability, this would greatly benefit the rural farmers of Iowa.

Grand Mound has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for rural Clinton County.

Sincerely,



Christopher Bumann  
Bumann Farm Supply  
2839 200<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Calamus, IA 52729

# Clinton County Board of Supervisors

Clinton County Administration Building  
1900 North Third Street

Dan Srp, Chairman  
Tom Determann, Vice-Chairman  
Jim Irwin, Jr.

P.O. Box 2957  
Clinton, Iowa 52733-2957  
Telephone: (563) 244-0575

[www.clintoncounty-ia.gov](http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov)

August 3, 2020

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

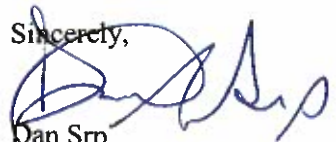
The Clinton County Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter of support on behalf of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association located in Grand Mound, Iowa. The Board would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Grand Mound Cooperative.

The Grand Mound Cooperative has a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at advanced speeds to rural communities. It also has a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the residents of Clinton County.

With the assistance of this grant, Grand Mound Cooperative's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, Clinton County residents face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our communities are currently lacking the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our rural schools. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our communities have seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our residents and businesses of Clinton County.

The Clinton County Board of Supervisors looks forward to this grant award for the Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association to enhance the life of rural residents in our County from students to farmers and businesses and residents. Thank you for your consideration.

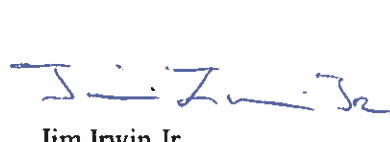
Sincerely,



Dan Srp  
Chairman



Tom Determann  
Vice-Chairman



Jim Irwin Jr.  
Supervisor

1010 6th Avenue  
DeWitt, Iowa 52742  
Phone: 563-659-8500  
[www.dewittiowa.org](http://www.dewittiowa.org)



**DeWitt**  
Chamber &  
Development  
Company

August 3, 2020

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association (GMCTA), located in Grand Mound, Iowa. As the Executive Director of the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC), I would like to express our organization's full support of their Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application. They are a valued business in our community and we are excited to support their application for financial assistance to expand their services in our area.

As the DeWitt Chamber and Development Company, we are the primary point of contact for new and existing businesses looking to locate or relocate to our Industrial Park, downtown, or 11<sup>th</sup> Street business corridor. We are the primary contact for residential developers, both for single and multi-family developments. We are the first stop for potential new residents to call and learn more about our community. And we are an active supporter of our school district's efforts to embrace technology, being a leader in providing 1:1 devices for our students, and adapting collaborative online learning options.

GMCTA has a proven history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community involvement and commitment. We are confident in their ability to enhance broadband service in our area. With the assistance of this grant, GMTCA's expanded broadband network will enable our community to overcome some of the significant connectivity challenges we face as a rural community.

As an underserved rural area with limited availability to advanced internet services, we face many obstacles. The current COVID-19 pandemic has only emphasized these issues as we strive to adapt to a world that is requiring us to do business, instruct our children, and consult with medical professionals virtually.



1010 6th Avenue  
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Company

Even prior to COVID-19, broadband capacity was a top consideration for new businesses considering an expansion into a community. Fast and reliable internet is no longer considered a luxury or perk, but rather an essential utility; the lack of it puts rural communities at a severe disadvantage. Since March, broadband has become an absolute qualifier, as businesses must plan for a future with much higher and more reliable internet connectivity needs. For this reason, the proposed broadband expansion will allow the DeWitt area to be more competitive in new business recruitment as well as existing business expansion and retention efforts.

Increased broadband will also allow our community to attract additional residents as today's workforce is increasingly able to work from home. When potential and existing residents are looking for a rural quality of life and quality of place, internet connectivity and reliability are still an absolute must. Rural living is appealing to many, as long as we have access to the internet!

The ability to have businesses, remote workforce, health care professionals, and multiple school districts of children simultaneously accessing the internet is essential in today's world. This increased demand for capacity and reliability makes it essential for broadband to be increased in our area. GMCTA's application is fully supported by our organization and we sincerely hope their application for this rural expansion grant funding is approved.

Sincerely,

Angela Rheingans  
DeWitt Chamber & Development Company  
1010 6th Ave  
DeWitt IA 52742



**DeWitt** *Delivers*



The City of Grand Mound  
615 Sunnyside Street; P.O. Box 206  
Grand Mound, IA 52751  
1-563-847-2190  
[gmcity@gmtel.net](mailto:gmcity@gmtel.net)  
[www.cityofgrandmound.org](http://www.cityofgrandmound.org)

July 30th, 2020

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

On behalf of the City of Grand Mound's City Council, I am providing this letter of support for The Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association (GMCTA), to wholeheartedly support their efforts to increase broadband connectivity through the use of the Iowa Broadband Grant Program.

GMCTA has a long history as a local business in Clinton County. GMCTA is applying for the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program to continue investing in the people of Iowa by addressing the increased need for internet connectivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, GMCTA would utilize the grant funds to increase the speed offerings, and capacity in their fixed wireless service area that covers a large portion of rural Clinton County in Iowa. The increase in speed and capacity would give existing and future customers reliable broadband. The increase in reliable broadband is an essential service needed for all Iowans, especially in rural areas, including the rural areas of Clinton County. Broadband is a lifeline for Iowans who need to telework or utilize distance learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The City of Grand Mound fully supports GMCTA in their efforts to increase reliable broadband services for current and future customers in the City of Grand Mound and surrounding rural areas within Clinton County, Iowa.

Sincerely,

Kurt Crosthwaite, Mayor

**Norlin Mommsen**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
*Ninety-Seventh District*

Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
e-mail – [norlin.mommsen@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:norlin.mommsen@legis.iowa.gov)

**HOME ADDRESS**

2308- 15th St Ct.  
DeWitt, Iowa 52742  
Home: (563) 357-9826



**House of Representatives**

State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Sixth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**COMMITTEES**

Agriculture  
Education  
Natural Resources  
Transportation

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Agriculture & Natural Resources,  
*Vice Chair*

July 30, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
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Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, this area has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this district. With the issues facing the state because of COVID it is extremely important that we do not allow our rural areas to fall

further behind when it comes to accessing the world wide web. This grant will allow citizens no matter where they choose to live to remain a vital member of our communities.

Grand Mound has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the remainder of House District 97.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norlin Mommsen".

Norlin Mommsen

Iowa House District 97



July 30, 2020

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

RE: Broadband Expansion Grant Program

Dear Chief Information Officer:

I am writing this letter in Support of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association (GMTCA) and their application for the Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant. GMCTA has long history of providing unbeatable customer service, advanced communications, and Internet service. With grant funding GMCTA will be able to make the necessary upgrades to better serve the residents and businesses of rural Clinton County. The upgrades will make distance learning, video streaming and teleworking a viable option for our residents.

It is especially important that Broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed improved broadband service to rural Clinton County. I am confident the GMCTA has the capabilities to deliver better broadband to our area.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Olson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Olson  
2731 221<sup>st</sup> St  
Dewitt, Iowa 52742