



August 5, 2020

OCIO - State of Iowa
Broadband Grants Program - Empower Rural Iowa
200 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support Guthrie Telecommunications Network, Inc. broadband infrastructure grant application. I have known and worked with the company since its inception. I am in charge of several accounts with them, ranging from business, to residential, to rural fixed wireless.

The company most recently edged out their fiber network, replacing my fixed wireless connection with fiber optic service, demonstrating their commitment for advancing broadband in rural Iowa. I find them a very capable broadband provider and an excellent community partner.

There is a digital divide in some of the more rural parts of our state. The terrain causes already high cost areas to serve even more high cost. The rolling hills and sparsely populated areas make any business plan a challenge. Funding this application would do enough to bring broadband to rural locations that are much like mine and are in need of dependable, reliable high-speed internet.

The pandemic has made this divide even more apparent. The need to work from home, distance learning and telemedicine have grown drastically. Virtual, this, virtual that are now necessities. My banking business is no different. When our lobbies were closed to the public, many of our customers relied on our on-line tools to do their day to day banking functions. Without reliable broadband, these customers were needlessly challenged.

Guthrie Center is fortunate to have a provider that cares about service and about broadband expansion. We urge you to approve Guthrie Telecommunication Network's grant application so that we can overcome the divide that exists for some families in our area.

Sincerely,


Dennis Flanery
Market President

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