

February 15, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Support for the Dorchester Fiber project

To Whom it May Concern:

COVID-19 completely upended our world and is impacting farmers and our food system in several ways. Our country's entire infrastructure is based on a food system that treats food as a commodity, churning over vast amounts of mass-produced food and fiber to places all over the globe. On top of environmental and public health impacts, our increasingly consolidated food system has shuttered not only independent small and mid-sized farms, but also local processing plants, seed suppliers, grocery chains, equipment dealers and more. K&R Feed is one of these small independent agricultural companies that rely on a full breath of producers.

As technology continues to get smarter, precision agriculture tools that farmers use day-to-day require the internet and a lot of data. With fiber optic broadband, farmers are able to communicate with their technology and track trends in their output to reach their full potential. Without a strong internet connection, tools like yield mapping, guidance systems, and soil mapping which provide farmers with data on how much water and fertilizer their crops need are unable to provide accurate data.

The agriculture industry has the opportunity to thrive with new technology, but the barrier of internet access is holding it back. This is where K&R Feeds needs to be for their business security and success. This is where our customers need to be for security and success. Please see favorably on the OCIO Dorchester application to assist K&R Feed along with other agricultural families, businesses, and residents along the proposed project path.

Sincerely,

Kirby Cahoon
Owner