

February 15, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company's (Stratford) broadband plan for portions of rural Hamilton County Bell's Mill and surrounding area would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Stratford's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, I am confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Hamilton County.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Hamilton County are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver.

With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant program, Stratford's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Hamilton County to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask you to consider Stratford's proposal for their fiber project in rural Hamilton County. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

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

Cindy Im
Hamilton County Development
500 Fair Meadow Drive
Webster City, IA 50595
515-832-9550 ext 217



903 Story Street, Boone, IA 50036
515-432-3342

director@booneiowa.us ■ www.GrowBooneCounty.com

February 11, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company's (Stratford) broadband plan for portions of rural Boone County that would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Stratford's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, I am confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Boone County.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents in many of our unincorporated areas are faced with challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver.

With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant program, Stratford's proposed expansion will enable the residents in the northern portion of Boone County to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask you to consider Stratford's proposal for their fiber project. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

Kurt R. Phillips, Executive Director
Boone County Economic Growth Corporation
903 Story Street
Boone, Iowa 50036
(515) 432-3342



February 18, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company's (Stratford) broadband plan for portions of rural Story City would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Stratford's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, I am confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Story City.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Story City are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver.

With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant program, Stratford's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Story City to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask you to consider Stratford's proposal for their fiber project in rural Story City. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,
Tyler Frederiksen-President
Story City Economic Development Corporation
524 Broad St.
Story City, IA 50248
515-231-9430



February 17, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As the Director of Technology for Roland-Story Schools I know the importance of expanding access to state-of-the-art broadband services is extremely important. I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company (Stratford). They have a long and successful history of providing exceptional communications services within the State of Iowa. Stratford has a strong reputation for excellent customer service and commitment.

Roland-Story Schools utilizes broadband connections every day to greatly enhance learning opportunities for our students inside and out of the classroom. Education will continue to evolve, and it is very evident that digital learning will continue to play a crucial role. It is critical for all students in our school district to have access to reliable, high speed Internet. Without advanced broadband, the learning opportunities for a percentage of our students will be greatly limited.

The lack of broadband in underserved communities is a great challenge to our district and has a direct impact on the future success of our students. Due to the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. With this

Superintendent | Matt Patton 733.4301

High School Principal | Justin Boliver 733.4329

Middle School Principal | Brian Town 388.4348

Elementary Principal | Kate Hartzler 733.4386

Finance Director/Board Secretary | Candi Holm 733.4301

Activities Director | Brian Petersen 733.4329

Curriculum & Learning | Michelle Soderstrum 733.4301

Technology Coordinator | Dan Rader 733.4301

grant, Stratford's expansion of fiber broadband will help some of our rural students overcome this obstacle and provide opportunities for research, peer collaboration, distance learning, video and advanced tools.

For the last 11 months, during the pandemic, Roland-Story Schools has had to educate our students in many different ways. We have experienced everything from complete lockdowns of our buildings to mostly in person learning. One thing that has been a constant during this time is the need to continue to communicate and educate our students. One of the main ways we have found to do this in the most effective manner has been through use of the internet. This has been a struggle for some of our students because of lack of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. For some students and families this has been one more source of stress and worry in a time when there are many other things already on the stress and worry list.

Stratford has a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, I am confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service in our rural areas around Story City.

Sincerely,

Dan Rader, Director of Technology

Roland-Story Schools

1009 story Street

Story City, IA 50248

515-733-4301 ext. 3220

Superintendent | Matt Patton 733.4301

High School Principal | Justin Boliver 733.4329

Middle School Principal | Brian Town 388.4348

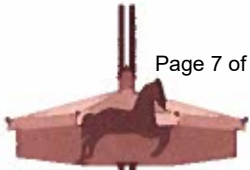
Elementary Principal | Kate Hartzler 733.4386

Finance Director/Board Secretary | Candi Holm 733.4301

Activities Director | Brian Petersen 733.4329

Curriculum & Learning | Michelle Soderstrum 733.4301

Technology Coordinator | Dan Rader 733.4301



504 Broad Street
Story City, IA 50248
515.733.2121

www.cityofstorycity.org

1913 Herschell-Spillman Carousel

February 19, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company's (Stratford) broadband plan for portions of rural Story City that would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Stratford's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, I am confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Story City.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Story City are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver.

With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant program, Stratford's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Story City to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask you to consider Stratford's proposal for their fiber project in rural Story City. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Jackson, City Administrator

February 10, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As the Technology Director of the Southeast Webster-Grand CSD, I know the importance of expanding access to state-of-the-art broadband services is extremely important. I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Application for Stratford Mutual Telephone Company (Stratford). They have a long and successful history of providing exceptional communications services within the State of Iowa. Stratford has a strong reputation for excellent customer service and commitment.

The Southeast Webster-Grand CSD utilizes broadband connection everyday and greatly enhances learning opportunities for our students in the classroom. Education will continue to evolve, and it is very evident that digital learning will continue to play a crucial role. It is critical for all students in our school district to have access to reliable, high speed Internet. Without advanced broadband, the learning opportunities for a percentage of our students will be greatly limited.

The lack of broadband in underserved communities is a great challenge to our district and has a direct impact on the future success of our students. Due to the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. With this grant, Stratford's expansion of fiber broadband will help some of our rural students overcome this obstacle and provide opportunities for research, peer collaboration, distance learning, video and advanced tools.

Every student in our district is assigned a device that they carry home each night. It is very important that all students have equal access to quality internet while at home.

Stratford has a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community

commitment and customer service, I am confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service in our area.

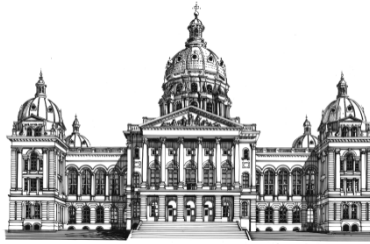
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Fluckiger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and a small "e" at the end of the last name.

Sincerely,
Dan Fluckiger, Tech. Director
Southeast Webster-Grand CSD
30850 Paragon Ave.
Burnside, IA 50521
515-359-2235

JESSE GREEN

STATE SENATOR
Twenty-fourth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—
HOME ADDRESS
2344 360th Street
Harcourt, IA 50544
jesse.green@legis.iowa.gov



The Senate

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

COMMITTEES

Labor and Business Relations – Vice Chair
Administrative Rules Review
Agriculture
Human Resources
Natural Resources and Environment
Veterans Affairs
Ways and Means
*Education Appropriations Subcommittee –
Vice Chair*

February 22, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Subject: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program

To whom it may concern,

Broadband access has become an increasingly important issue in Iowa, especially during the last year, as more and more Iowans were working from home, getting their education online, or even getting their health care online.

It is a priority for many lawmakers, myself included, to work on expanding broadband access. Iowa is ranked as one of the worst states when it comes to broadband access, and internet speeds in the state are some of the slowest in the country.

Stratford Telephone has plan for fiber connectivity to help over 100 households in our area and 20 businesses. Like much of this state, this is a rural area and one of the many areas struggling with connectivity and options for providers. If Stratford Telephone were able to receive funds through the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program, it could make a huge difference in the lives of many Iowans when broadband access is more important than ever.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Green'.

Senator Jesse Green