

Broadband Grant Program – Empower Rural Iowa
Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion Program (NOFA #005)
Application 395901 – Carroll North
Central Forms
Supplemental Materials of Need
List of Support Letters Included in This Document

1. Letters of support
 - a. Carroll County Board of Supervisors
 - b. Dean Schettler, Carroll County Supervisor
 - c. City of Carroll
 - d. Carroll Chamber of Commerce
 - e. Carroll County Farm Bureau
 - f. State Representative Brian Best
 - g. State Senator Craig Williams

Carroll County Board of Supervisors

114 East 6th Street-Carroll, IA 51401

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer

200 East Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50309

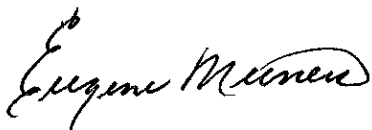
To Whom it may Concern,

We, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors with pleasure, offer a letter of support and strongly encourage your approval for Western Iowa Networks/Breda Telephone Corp. proposal for grant funding for strategic initiative expansion of broadband to more of our rural areas. We continue to take strides to improve our rural services to our Constituents. With your approval we can continue to strive for more reliable, faster and dependable broadband in Carroll County.

Today's society is more dependent on broadband than ever before. From telehealth virtual meetings, gatherings, and potential education in some areas. The proposed area for expansion does not have adequate internet. These include but are not limited to personal homes and farming operations. Technology allows these entities to implement safer, more economical farming practices and business expansion. For families this allows them to have reliable connectivity.

We would like to thank you for your time, and we kindly ask for your approval for Western Iowa Networks/Breda Telephone Corp. grant application.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugene Meiners".

Gene Meiners

Chairman, Carroll County, Iowa Board of Supervisors,

February 18, 2021

Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program Committee

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors supports BTC Inc. in their current efforts to bring high speed internet to underserved residents of Carroll County. BTC Inc., doing business as Western Iowa Networks, has developed a plan to bury fiber in two locations in the County connecting new customers to the company's existing network. Western Iowa Networks has a history of providing the under-served with fiber in Carroll County. With a small down payment and a two-year contract with residents of two of the county's unincorporated communities, Maple River and Mt Carmel, Western Iowa Networks developed a business plan that brought 100 meg fiber internet broadband services to these communities when the incumbent carriers would not do so. The current plan would not only serve those in the preliminary buildout but would also bring them closer to other underserved Carroll County residents and smaller communities in the County that are not currently being offered highspeed data services by the current ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier).

This plan would bring high speed internet services to local rural residents and also to several large agricultural facilities helping to connect them to critical resources. However, in facing the realities of such a plan, burying fiber a mile and serving only one customer has never been feasible without support. The eventual completion of this project would mean the digital divide would be a little bit narrower for some of Carroll County's residents and make their lives more manageable through remote learning, telehealth and other stable internet experiences their urban counterparts already enjoy. We have a long way to go to get stable highspeed broadband to all of our rural residents. However, through the efforts of Iowa's Independent companies like Western Iowa Networks, we have a chance.

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors applauds the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program for making these funding opportunities available to the rural residents of the State of Iowa through local Iowa companies like Western Iowa Networks. It is the hope of the Carroll County Board of Supervisors that you will look favorably at the BTC application and help fund this plan, making it a reality.

Thank You and Best Regards

Carroll County Supervisor

Former BTC Board Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Schettler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

City of Carroll

112 E. 5th Street

Carroll, Iowa 51401-2799

(712) 792-1000

FAX: (712) 792-0139

February 24, 2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer
Attn: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Western Iowa Networks
Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program grant application

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask you to support Western Iowa Networks Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program grant application that will extend fiber optics broadband to a rural area just north of Carroll. While this project is outside the City of Carroll, we support the development of Broadband knowing the importance it is for rural economic development.

Since 2009 Western Iowa Networks has provided fiber to the premises to every property within the corporate City Limits of Carroll. Broadband networks, such as what has been built by Western Iowa Networks, brings affordable, high-quality Internet access to residents, encourages market competition, and enables local economic development. This cutting-edge technology in the City of Carroll has been a tremendous asset during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over time Western Iowa Networks broadband network has also reduced telecommunication costs for the City of Carroll. Finally, because Western Iowa Networks is locally run, not by a company headquartered in a different state, subscribers can hold our locally owned network accountable.

I strongly support and encourage you to fund Western Iowa Networks Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program grant application that will extend fiber optics broadband to a rural area just north of Carroll.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,



Michel J. Pogge, AICP
Carroll City Manager



February 23, 2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

As the Executive Director of Carroll Area Development Corporation, I am writing in support of Western Iowa Networks' application to the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program.

Carroll Area Development Corporation is the lead economic development entity serving Carroll County, Iowa. Also, CADC works closely with surrounding counties to feature regional assets to recruit both business projects and talented workforce to the region. In working with this effort, we recognize the absolute necessity of having strong connectivity as a key criterion in business recruitment. Since WIN's installation of gigabit service several years ago, it has helped Carroll and CADC to establish relationships within the data circles of site selectors that had not previously existed. The pandemic has been challenging, but has opened the door to new business opportunities, and new ways of doing business. For Carroll County to remain competitive in the site selection process and to remain a viable option for the existing industries currently calling Carroll home, investments such as this one by Western Iowa Networks are critical to the region.

As CADC continues to seek economic development opportunities for growth, the organization has been well-served by the progressive attitude of Western Iowa Networks. While Carroll County is home to national companies in many sectors, the infrastructure provided by WIN only adds to their success and growth potential. In pulling all of this together, the key infrastructure that Western Iowa Networks bring to Carroll has aided in solidifying Carroll as a regional hub for business, service, education and healthcare. Providing the fiber for Carroll is truly providing a regional asset for the above mentioned services.

I encourage your support of the WIN application.

Sincerely,

Shannon Landauer
Shannon Landauer, CEcD
Executive Director



829 Griffith Rd.
Carroll, IA 51401
712.792.9296 | 712.790.1859 cell
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Registered Representative/
Securities & services offered through
FBL Marketing Services, LLC,*
5400 University Avenue,
West Des Moines, IA 50266,
877.860.2904, Member SIPC.

Ryan Kock, AFIS
Agent

February 24, 2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer
Attn: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Committee:

Carroll County Farm Bureau Financial Services is lending its support to the application of Western Iowa Networks, for a fiber construction project in rural Carroll, Iowa. Farm Bureau understands the importance of fast and reliable broadband service to all the residents and businesses in Iowa. Rural residents are especially lacking this critical service at a time when it is more important than ever. A large portion of our rural areas remain underserved. Farms and agricultural business are the lifeblood of our local economy, and these businesses are impacted daily by the lack of adequate broadband service. Awarding these funds would help Western Iowa Networks to continue building out into these rural areas and provide better service for the people who live and work there.

Please give strong consideration the application Western Iowa Networks is submitting for this grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Kock', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

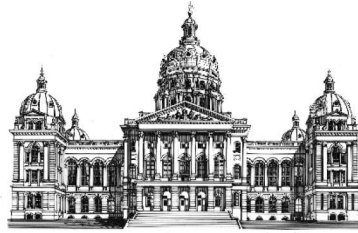
Ryan Kock
Agent
Farm Bureau Financial Services

829 Griffith Rd
Carroll IA 514012325
(712) 792-9296
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ryan.kock@fbfs.com
ryankock.fbfsagents.com

Brian Best
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Twelfth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221
e-mail – brian.best@legis.iowa.gov

HOME ADDRESS
P.O. Box 450
Glidden, Iowa 51443
Home: (712) 830-1844



House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Seventh General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Commerce
Human Resources
Transportation

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Economic Development, *Chair*

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer
Attn: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Chief Information Officer:

I am writing you to express my support for Western Iowa Networks and their application for Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program. They are looking to overbuild a small rural area north of Carroll with fiber optics, but will need grant funding to make it happen.

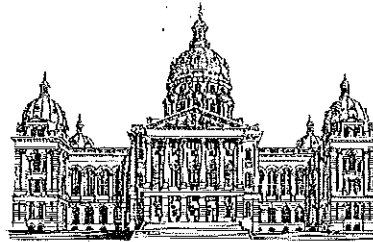
Western Iowa Networks is a broadband and telephone service provider in Carroll County. They provide excellent service and have a great reputation in the Carroll area and will be a great recipient of the grant money. They are on the cutting edge of bringing fast service to rural Iowa and would be a great choice to expand broadband in the area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Representative Brian Best

CRAIG WILLIAMS
STATE SENATOR
Sixth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

HOME ADDRESS
11886 320th St.
Manning, IA 51455
H: (712) 790-8927
craig.williams@legis.iowa.gov



The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-Ninth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

COMMITTEES

Appropriations
Commerce
Government Oversight, *Vice Chair*
Local Government

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Appropriations Subcommittee

February 23, 2021

State of Iowa
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Empower Rural Broadband Grant Program, Evaluation Committee
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Letter of Support for Western Iowa Networks Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Application

Dear Evaluation Committee:

I am sending this letter in support of the application of Western Iowa Networks under the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program. This application is for the construction of a fiber optic network in rural Carroll.

As a member of the Iowa State Senate representing District 6, I can tell you that fast and reliable broadband service is critical to my constituents of this rural area. Families and businesses rely on broadband for tele-work, tele-health, and remote learning now more than ever due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many rural areas, including the area covered in this application, have waited far too long for adequate broadband service. Access to these services has never been more critical than it is now.

This project proposed by Western Iowa Networks will give my constituents in this area access to fast, stable broadband service that will satisfy their bandwidth needs for many years to come. As such, I strongly encourage you to consider the application of Western Iowa Networks for this grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Williams", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Craig Williams
State Senator
Iowa Senate District 6