

February 22, 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 superintendent of the Iowa Valley Community School District, 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 USA Communications. They have a long and successful history of providing exceptional communications services within the State of Iowa. USA Communications has a strong reputation for excellent customer service and commitment.

The Iowa Valley Community School District utilizes broadband connection every day 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, USA Communication'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.

USA Communications 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 the Marengo, Iowa and Iowa Valley Community School District.

Sincerely,

Mark Olmstead, Superintendent
359 E. Hilton St.
Marengo, IA, Zip 52301
319-642-7714

February 16, 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

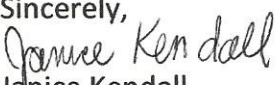
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for USA Communications broadband plan for portions of rural Luzerne. I would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to USA Communication'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 Luzerne.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Luzerne 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, USA Communication's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Luzerne 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 USA Communication's proposal for their fiber project in rural Luzerne. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

Janice Kendall
Luzerne City Clerk

February 23, 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 am writing this letter on behalf of USA Communications. As a resident of Center Point, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for USA Communications. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. USA Communications has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in USA Communication's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Iowa.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, USA Communications will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to 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. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

Our rural housing development was fortunate to be able to work with USA Communications to bring broadband to our development. It could not have happened at more opportune time, with the pandemic forcing people and students to work from home. The community in which I live still has many rural areas in which they have insufficient connectivity. As a retired school superintendent I still get contacted from patrons asking for help in bringing better internet for their areas.

We strongly urge the Chief Information Officer and Review Committee to fund this Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in USA Communication's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Marshall