

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

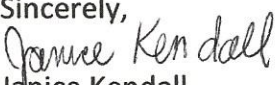
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

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