

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