



July 20, 2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information office

Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program Review Committee

It is my pleasure to express my full support of Coon Valley Cooperative Telephone for the application of the NOFA#6 grant program. Being a farmer in rural Iowa and a supervisor for District 5 in the southeast corner of Guthrie County, I know the importance of broadband internet for everyday needs, and Guthrie County has many residences who are underserved for broadband.

Rural broadband is extremely important for our rural schools now more than ever. We need rural broadband so our schools can remain competitive and offer our students the same opportunities that are available in larger cities.

Since the pandemic started, broadband deficient areas have become much more obvious. Many underserved areas do not have the broadband available to work from home, school or receive medical care from home. It is more important than ever to invest in expanding reliable broadband to the rural communities and the NOFA #006 is a great opportunity for companies like Coon Valley to meet the needs of the people in our county.

As a long time Supervisor in this area, I fully support Coon Valley for addressing the need for broadband internet in this part of Guthrie County. Personally in 2018 I was able to get fiber optic from Coon Valley and this past year has proved invaluable with conducted meetings and schooling virtually. They are a local telephone company just 5 minutes away from the area they are wanting to build out with fiber optic. They are a pillar of the community and would be an excellent investment for Iowa to grow the fiber optic footprint across our county.

In closing, I fully support the efforts of Coon Valley Telephone in their pursuit of NOFA #006. I am excited of the possibilities for our county. Any program that aims to help provide our students, businesses, and community members the tools they need to no longer be broadband deficient is a great opportunity for Guthrie County, and Coon Valley Telephone.

Thank you,

Mike Dickson- Guthrie County District 5 Supervisor

District5@guthriecounty.gov

515-689-9088



State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program Review Committee

July 3rd, 2021

On behalf of the members at Diamondhead Lake, thank you for the service provided by Coon Valley for our phone and internet needs. As you are aware your service is important to our community in many ways, and we appreciate the effort your group has extended to try and improve the quality. However, we still feel this is an area that needs to be improved to meet the growing needs of our community.

This was particularly evident during the last eighteen months when many of our members were working remotely from their homes. The challenges of internet quality were evident when the system was taxed with the increased traffic caused by the pandemic.

We have nearly 300 members, many of them families with children. As you can appreciate the need for everyone to have access to quality high speed internet is fast becoming a basic service, we all depend on for our work, school, virtual communication, and research. Many of our members work from their homes and would like to see us find a solution for better internet. This is becoming a key infrastructure need to meet the demands. However, as you know the cost of this is well beyond the resources of our community.

This service will not only help our existing members but be a huge asset to attracting new members to this rural area. Given the new world introduced by the pandemic, more people are looking for quality of life options to live, work and raise families. Quality high speed internet would be a key component to attracting them to our area. We believe this will help our community grow and have a significant impact on the economic development here in our area.

We appreciate all the efforts your group has made to help improve this service. As you consider additional investments into expanding the broadband capabilities to your customers, we want you to know how critical this is to our membership. We offer our support to work together to continue to try to find a solution to address this ever-increasing demand. Hopefully, we will be able to find some funding options to help us serve our area better.

Respectfully,

Michael D. Mars
President

State Of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office

July 12, 2021

Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program Review Committee

My name is John Johnson and I have been a resident of Diamondhead Lake since 1995. My family and I have been Internet customers of Coon Valley Coop Telephone since switching off of dial up many years ago. At that time, they were basically the only provider in the area and they remain one of the best providers today. They offer several connection speeds with no data caps and very affordable rates. Important features with four kids in today's streaming and social media saturated world. My family has been able to keep up with their favorite shows, webcasts, and friends thanks to the internet services provided by Coon Valley.

I work as a Software Quality Assurance Analyst and have been working from home for about five years. My initial service was good enough for me to work just like I was at the office until the pandemic started. Then with the increase in residents online and a larger demand for bandwidth to do secure connections and Microsoft Teams based meetings and phone calls I had to increase my connection speed. With the many options provide by Coon Valley I was able to increase my speed for a very reasonable price. In 2020-2021, while I worked from home over a VPN connection, two of my children connected to high school and college classes. All possible because of our Internet service. Some of the local students had to use cellphone plan with data limits for internet or drive to the school building and work in their cars to access Internet.

Our community is located in a valley, several miles from the nearest town. For the most part cellphone service is spotty at best as only one provide has a nearby tower and the hills make connections difficult at times. Because of this, we use Internet assisted calling for our cell phones. While this works, I think there are times when high demand or bad weather do affect the signal. A fiber connection would ensure full time service just like old fashioned phone lines.

As our community grows and families' needs change, I see a time when the current wireless based service is not enough. There are already locations that can not make use of the service due to the hills between them and the tower. Some locations that used to have good service are losing this access due to tree growth in the community. Plus, our family is looking to switch from satellite TV to more streaming services because of the cost and the way weather blocks out satellite. One issue that concerns me is the affect weather has on the wireless Internet service we currently have. I believe a hard connection like fiber to our home would give our internet service that final level of reliability that would allow me to drop satellite and go full streaming.

In summary, I believe Coon Valley's current service to be the best priced, most versatile option with great customer service for those that can see the tower. Adding fiber to their service would make it the best option for everyone and would help promote the growth of our community.

Sincerely,

John Johnson

Chad Baedke
2790 275th Street
Stuart IA, 50250

07/23/2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office Attn:
Iowa Broadband Grant Program Review Committee

It is with much excitement that I share how powerful of an impact you are having not only locally but across the state. The fiber and high-speed internet that is provided has afforded my wife and me the ability to live in rural Guthrie County and work remotely.

My wife is a physician who serves patients all over the state using telehealth. Had this internet service not been provided we would not have relocated to the area and her reach would have certainly been limited to urban areas. Today, she serves patients in over 8 rural counties in Iowa.

I, too, am employed in healthcare and serve our communities across Iowa. Coon Valley Cooperative has delivered reliable and affordable high-speed internet that helped us make it through the pandemic.

Behind every successful product or service, you truly find what powers it. For Coon Valley Cooperative I can assure you it is the people. Our experience has been world-class. Carrie worked hard to ensure everything was scheduled and moving as planned. Jim oversaw the operations and made sure everything was working as expected. Justin, our tech, was friendly and always willing to explain the tech lingo to us.

Thank you, Coon Valley Cooperative for allowing us to not only serve rural communities with you but for letting us live in a spot that we consider "a little slice of heaven".

Sincerely,

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

Chad Baedke