



www.whiterockconservancy.org

1436 Highway 141
Coon Rapids, IA 50058

Ph: 712-790-8221

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Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this to support Panora Communication Cooperative's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Whiterock Conservancy just outside of Coon Rapids, Iowa and the lack of broadband access has had a significant impact on the Conservancy and our neighbors. Our inability to go online to work and learn from home puts us at a significant disadvantage compared to those with access. Panora's application proposes to construct a fiber broadband network that will support gigabit broadband. The project will directly support over 50 homes, farms and businesses in the area. These include the Whiterock Conservancy – a nonprofit land trust, and POET – a biofuels refinery.

As a local business leader, I believe this project is needed for children to be able to learn and families to remain connected. It is also needed to attract and retain the necessary workforce talent to our area. As the pandemic has shown, students and employees need to be able to work remotely otherwise they will fall behind their peers. The construction of a fiber network would be vital to our area and address these problems.

I urge you to support this application.

Sincerely,

Butch Niebuhr
Board President

July 15, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Workforce Housing support

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to bring your attention to Panora Communication Cooperative's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I am a local business owner and live in a rural area outside of Panora, Iowa. I am unable to get access to broadband at my location. This has posed a significant challenge for me to go online to manage my business and puts us at a big disadvantage compared to those that are able to access modern, high-speed broadband internet service. Panora's application proposes to construct a fiber broadband network that will support gigabit broadband. The project will directly support nearly 50 homes, family farms and businesses in my area.

As a local business owner, I believe this project is needed for me to operate my business and to remain connected to essential online services. It would also serve to help attract and retain employees to the area too. The construction of a gigabit fiber network would be a significant step forward to addressing these challenges.

Please support Panora Telco's broadband grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Bahr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

July 16, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to support Panora Communication Cooperative's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I live and work in a rural area southeast of Coon Rapids, Iowa and the lack of broadband access has had a significant impact on me and my businesses. For example, I own and operate a historic event center, and associated arts facility but it has been impossible to broadcast from there. I am unable to use cloud-based software because of slow upload speeds from my home office and from our farm office. As part of my work, I give on-line presentations, but have had to be represented by still photos because my upload speeds are so poor. Even my Roomba vacuum and music system are quite dysfunctional for lack of good internet access. Given that my land line telephone service is becoming increasingly unreliable, I will really need the telecommunications that good internet can provide.

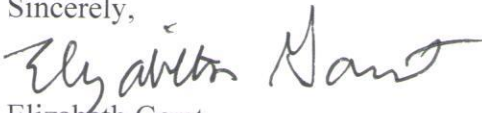
Also, I am on the Board of Directors of Whiterock Conservancy, a very important economic development engine in this area as well as a provider of outdoor education. Lack of good internet service has hampered the organization, its mission and its guests in a variety of ways.

The Pandemic really highlighted the importance of good internet, especially to children and to office-based workers. In working with our local school, I learned that even financial subsidies were not sufficient to cover all our rural district's children. For too many, there was no access at all. This must be addressed. In this area, we are badly under-served in what is rapidly becoming an essential service.

Panora's application proposes to construct a fiber broadband network that will support gigabit broadband. The project will directly support not only my activities, but also over 50 homes, farms and businesses in my area.

I urge you to support this application.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Garst
1700 130th Street
Coon Rapids, Iowa 50058
Lizgarst.lg@gmail.com
www.whiterockconservancy.org

July 15, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to consider supporting Panora Communication Cooperative's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I am a Guthrie County Supervisor and I live in a rural area located between Stuart and Panora, Iowa. I am unable to get access to reliable high-speed facilities-based broadband at my home. This has posed a challenge for me to go online and puts us at a big disadvantage compared to those that are able to access modern, fiber broadband service. Panora Telco's application seeks funding to construct a fiber broadband network that will support gigabit broadband. The project will directly support nearly 50 homes and family farms in my area.

As a government leader, I believe this project is needed for me to remain connected to essential online services as well as my constituents. It would also support many of my constituents, allowing them to work and learn remotely. The construction of a gigabit fiber network would be a significant investment in my area and would address many of the challenges that have become apparent over the past year for families, particularly employees and students in Guthrie County.

I urge you to consider supporting Panora Communication Cooperative's broadband grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everett G. Gasty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Everett" and last name "Gasty" clearly distinguishable.



Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center Schools

AC/GC High School

AC/GC JH, AC Elem

GC Elementary

906 School Street

3384 Indigo Ave

900 N 4th St

Guthrie Center, IA 50115 Adair, IA 50002

Guthrie Center, IA 50115

Dennis McClain - Superintendent
Diane Flanery - GC Elem Principal

Ethan Lensch - HS Principal
Karla Mahaffey - Curriculum Director

Chris Douglas - JH/AC Elem Principal
Cody Matthewson - Activities Director

July 15, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support Panora Telco's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I live in a rural area outside of Guthrie Center, Iowa and the lack of broadband access has had a significant impact on me and my neighbors. As the superintendent of the AC/GC School District, I understand firsthand the challenge that a lack of broadband has on many families in our district. I also am keenly aware of the challenge because I have limited access to broadband at my home as well. Our inability to work and learn from home puts us at a significant disadvantage compared to those locations that do have access to reliable, modern broadband. Panora Telco's application proposes to construct a fiber broadband network that will support gigabit broadband. The project will directly support many residences and family farms in my area and the school district.

As an educational leader, I believe this project is needed for children to be able to learn and families to remain connected to work and family. It is also needed to attract and retain the workforce talent and families to our area. As the pandemic has shown, students need to be able to work remotely otherwise they will fall behind their peers. The construction of a fiber network would be a significant step towards addressing these problems.

I urge you to consider supporting their application.

Sincerely,