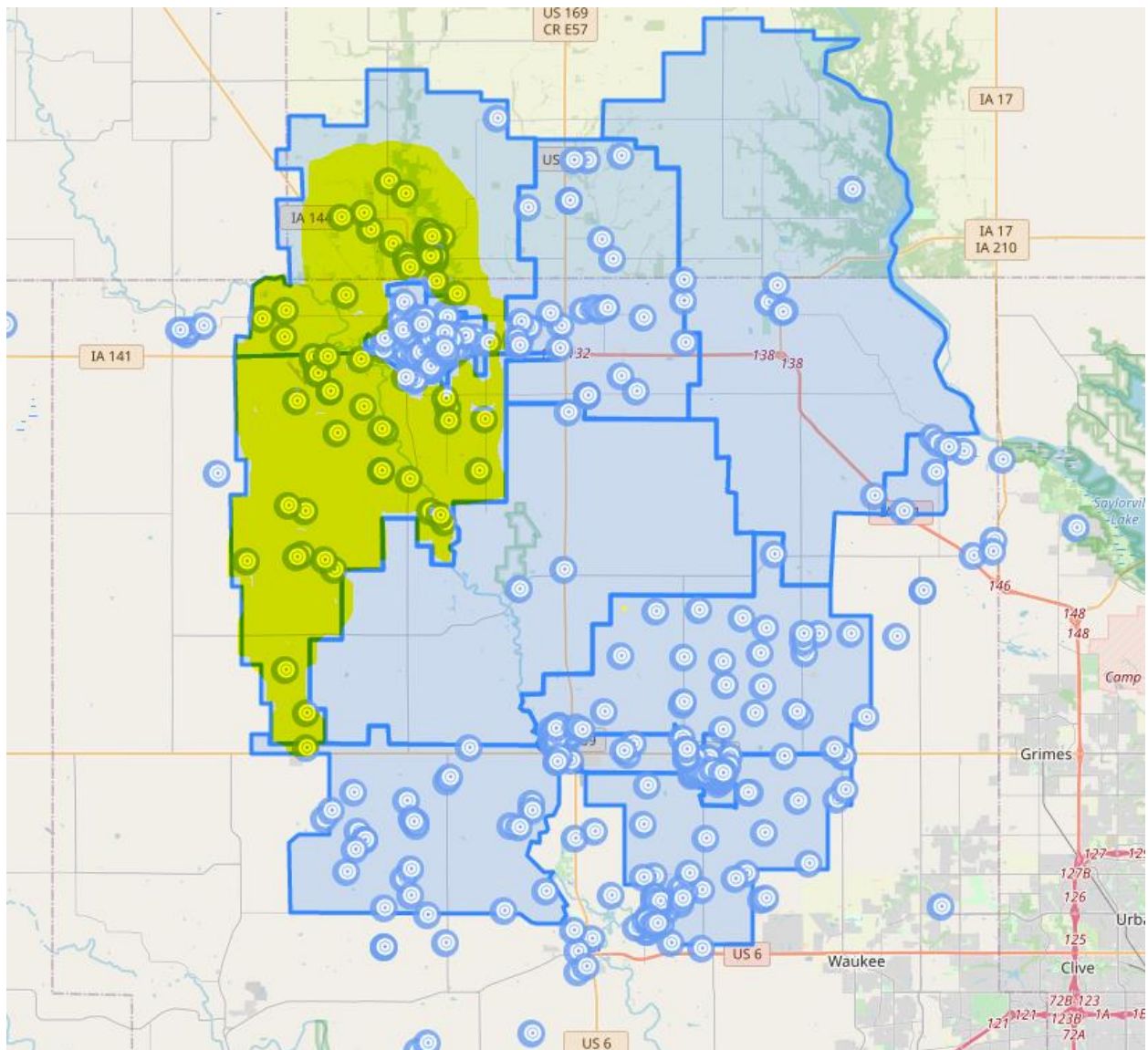


## Perry Rural - Interested Residents





June 29, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program  
NOFA #006

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I want to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Minburn Telephone Company's (Minburn) broadband plan for portions of rural Dallas Center and Dallas County. An expansion of broadband would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area.

Due to Minburn'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 Dallas Center and Dallas County.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Dallas Center and Dallas County 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.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**MIKE KIDD**

1502 Walnut St, PO Box 396, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063 | p 515.992.3725 | f 515.992.3764 | cityhall@dallascenter.com  
dallascenter.com



With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant program, Minburn's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Dallas Center and Dallas County 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 Minburn's proposal for their fiber project in rural Dallas Center and Dallas County. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

Mike Kidd, Mayor  
Dallas Center, Iowa

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**MIKE KIDD**

1502 Walnut St, PO Box 396, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063 | p 515.992.3725 | f 515.992.3764 | [cityhall@dallascenter.com](mailto:cityhall@dallascenter.com)  
[dallascenter.com](http://dallascenter.com)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- BRAD GOLIGHTLY
- MARK A. HANSON
- KIM CHAPMAN



July 6, 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 #006

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 Minburn Telephone Company's (Minburn) broadband plan for portions of rural Dallas County would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Minburn'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 Dallas County.

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

Sincerely,

Brad Golightly  
Resident and Member Dallas County Board of Supervisors  
15468 150 th Street  
Perry, IA 50220  
515-249-5946

902 COURT STREET ADEL, IOWA 50003

TEL: 515-993-5806

E-MAIL: [melinda.harney@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:melinda.harney@dallascountyiowa.gov), [brad.golightly@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:brad.golightly@dallascountyiowa.gov)  
[kim.chapman@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:kim.chapman@dallascountyiowa.gov), [mark.hanson@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:mark.hanson@dallascountyiowa.gov)

June 24, 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 #006

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Minburn Telephone Company (Minburn). As a resident and farmer of Dallas County, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Minburn. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Minburn has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Minburn's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in rural Dallas County.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Minburn 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 farmers and livestock producers, we rely on technology year-round to capture the most value from our efforts in the highly competitive world of modern agriculture. As our area becomes more urbanized, there is increasing disparity in infrastructure investment in the more rural parts. Farmers and livestock producers face a lot of pressure today to not only realize more performance in their fields and herds, but also to earn the support of our urban neighbors who are moving closer to our fencelines everyday. Our families have lived and worked in rural Dallas County for generations, and have contributed to growing and preserving our communities. Many people are unfamiliar with what it takes, but in order to care for the land and animals to the best of our ability, we need our state to invest in us. This requires safe and reliable access to the internet where we store our record data, manage our crops and herds, monitor feed delivery and consumption, gather market information, exchange contracts and financial documents, and sell our products directly to consumers. Improving accessibility and bandwidth for these technologies would also aid in the Governor's pledge to invest in our rural communities. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

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 Minburn's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our agricultural community.

Sincerely,

Emily Fox

Secretary, Dallas County Cattlemen's Organization





7 of 12

# DALLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL

*Specialized care is close to home.*

610 10th Street Control Number 415105  
Perry, Iowa 50220 6200 Westown Parkway Suite 100  
Phone 515-465-3547 West Des Moines, Iowa 50266  
Fax 515-465-2922 Phone 515-222-9880  
Fax 515-222-9895

July 2, 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 #006

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Minburn Telephone Company (Minburn). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Minburn. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our hospital. With the assistance of this grant, Minburn's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced 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. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

One of the main obstacles to widespread telehealth adoption is the lack of access to broadband services across much of the United States – Iowa included. According to BroadbandNow.com, Iowa ranks 45th in the nation in broadband access and the second-slowest internet speed nationwide, with an average download speed of 78.9 megabits per second (Mbps). The time has come for Iowa to improve its broadband speeds. Faster broadband speeds would allow hospitals and clinics to deliver care to our patients

Minburn has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Dallas County Hospital and Family Medicine Clinics.

Sincerely,

Jake Wendler  
Chief Information Officer  
Dallas County Hospital and Family Medicine Clinics  
Perry, IA 50220  
515-720-5575

July 1, 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 #006

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As the director of the DMACC VanKirk Career Academy I work with 8 school districts in our region and learned to know the importance of expanding access to state-of-the-art broadband services across our area. The disparity between the services that students get depending on which school district they attend can be a barrier to educational opportunities, especially during the pandemic. I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Application for Minburn Telephone Company (Minburn). We have worked with this company in various ways before and they have a long and successful history of providing exceptional communications services within the State of Iowa. Minburn has a strong reputation for excellent customer service and commitment.

The DMACC Career academy utilizes broadband connection and greatly enhances learning opportunities for our students. Without advanced broadband, the learning opportunities for a percentage of our students will be greatly limited and greatly reduce the economic development potential of rural Iowa.

The lack of broadband is particularly challenging when a significant portion of our population is from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, this challenge has a direct impact on the future success of our youth. Due to the rural and diverse nature of our community, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban or affluent areas. With this grant, Minburn'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.

DMACC has a long history of digital learning and knows the value that this can bring to our students and we plan to continue to expand these services. It is critical for all students in our region to have access to reliable, high speed Internet. Minburn has a long and successful history of providing 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 our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Diaz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eddie" being more prominent and the last name "Diaz" following in a similar style.

Eddie Diaz  
[ediaz@dmacc.edu](mailto:ediaz@dmacc.edu) or 515-850-7735





9325 Bishop Drive, Suite 105  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

General Phone: 515.987.2020  
Alex Lynch, Exec. Director  
[www.dallascounty-ia.org](http://www.dallascounty-ia.org)

June 29, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program- NOFA #006

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 Minburn Telephone Company's (Minburn) broadband plan for portions of rural Dallas County would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Minburn'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 Dallas County.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Dallas County 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, Minburn's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Dallas County 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.

Minburn has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Dallas County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Lynch".

Alex Lynch, CEcD  
Executive Director



1102 Willis Avenue, Suite 300  
PO Box 545  
Perry, IA 50220  
Ph: 515-465-2481  
Fax: 515-465-4862

perryia.org

July 14, 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 #006

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 Minburn Telephone Company's (Minburn) broadband plan for portions of rural Perry would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Minburn'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 Perry.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sven Peterson".

Sven Peterson, City Administrator



1468 West A ave, Nevada, Iowa, 50201

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As an agricultural equipment dealer in Central Iowa, Van Wall Equipment has the privilege to work with some of the best agricultural producers in the country. Over the last decade the speed of production agriculture has increased with a velocity that compares to the tech boom of the early 90's. Gone are the days of handwritten ledgers and late-night livestock check-ins, they have been replaced with online accounting software and remote wireless camera systems.

A producer as recently as the early 1990's would typically wait to complete the year end financials after the crops were harvested and safely in storage. Today's producers need to be connected to their financial advisors continually throughout the year with connections that are secure and of sufficient speed to allow the transfer of documents and information swiftly and reliable.

In the same manner a livestock producer requires a connection that can support their livestock monitoring systems to ensure the wellbeing of their animals. These systems include needs such as remote camera systems to allow a producer to monitor livestock during birthing without having to make the trek to the barn late at night. Additionally, the living conditions of today's livestock are of critical importance to livestock producers. They rely on sensing systems to monitor temperature inside the barns to adjust fans and curtain walls that maintain comfortable conditions for the animals. In the event of a system malfunction the producer needs a reliable communication network that can notify them immediately so the issue can be addressed without delay to protect the animals.

Moreover, today's grain handling systems are extremely sophisticated and require the ability to monitor them remotely. A system can operate without an individual constantly checking on the status of the bins or the operation of the grain dryer. These grain handling systems require the same communication networks that continually provide fast reliable communication to the operator through the operation season.

All of these examples share one common thread, they all require a communication network that provides today's producers with the ability to ensure they can protect their livelihood to the best of their ability. Minburn Communications has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications within the State of Iowa and to this end, Van Wall Equipment fully supports Minburn Communications' Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Scott Meldrum'.

Scott Meldrum

Integrated Solutions Manager

Van Wall Equipment

515-707-5592

**Minburn Telephone Company  
Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant References**

Minburn Residential Customer:

Michele Blair  
22717 210<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minburn, Iowa 50167  
Cell: 515-438-6001  
Email: [cblair@minburncomm.net](mailto:cblair@minburncomm.net)

Perry Business Customer:

Terry Nielsen, President & CEO  
Raccoon Valley Bank  
1202 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Perry, Iowa 50220  
Work: 515-465-3521  
Cell: 515-491-9606  
[Tnielsen@raccoonvalleybank.com](mailto:Tnielsen@raccoonvalleybank.com)

Woodward Business and Residential Customer:

Todd Folkerts, Mayor  
City of Woodward  
105 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Woodward, Iowa 50276  
Cell: 515-314-3662  
[toddf260@gmail.com](mailto:toddf260@gmail.com)

Woodward Police Department:

Shane Buck, Chief  
Woodward Police Department  
108 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Woodward, Iowa 50276  
Cell: 515-661-7563  
[wpd970@minburncomm.net](mailto:wpd970@minburncomm.net)