

Howard-Winneshiek Community School District

1000 Schroder Drive Cresco, Iowa 52136 563.547.2762



July 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support for the Harmony Telephone Company as they pursue a grant to help with internet access within our school district boundaries.

Access to reliable broadband service for all students within the Howard-Winneshiek Community School District is critical as we are a one-to one technology school district PreK-12. Teaching and how students learn has evolved over time and the days of just sitting in a classroom memorializing material is no longer the norm. Our students our continually researching, collaborating, using meeting technology to meet with their peers and teachers. This was especially evident during the spring of 2020 when physically students and staff were not allowed to be on site. Those students that did not have reliable internet access unfortunately did not have the same educational experience as others.

As we move forward the needs for access will continue to be great and it is imperative that all of our students have the same access. Being able to have a high quality educational experience, complete your homework, research or collaborate with others should not depend on where you live. For many having access is not something that they have to worry about but for others this is a concern and puts them at a big disadvantage. I have heard of students saying they have to drive to an area, relative, friends or someplace else to try and get access. Depending on the family situation that adds another burden to their education.

To award this grant to the Harmony Telephone Company would be a great asset to our school and learning community and level the playing field for all of our students.

If I can be of any more assistance or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (563) 547-2762 or at tihns@howard-winn.k12.ia.us.

Regards,

Ted Ihns

Superintendent

Howard-Winneshiek Community Schools

July 23, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

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

To Who May Concern:

Howard County is excited for our future! Expanding broadband in underserved areas of the county would be a great addition to our commitment to making sure all citizens have adequate coverage.

The Howard County Board of Supervisors fully support Harmony Telephone Company's interest in expanding broadband in Howard County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Murray', is written over the printed name.

Pat Murray, Chairman
Howard County Board of Supervisors

City of Chester
Box 86
Chester, Iowa 52134

July 21, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Mayor for the City of Chester, I value first and foremost the people in this area. Having a quality broadband connection in our underserved rural area would greatly improve the quality of life for many people.

With the changing demographics, it is of utmost importance for us to be able to offer quality employment, educational opportunities, healthcare services and to retain and encourage families to move to our area. Having a solid broadband connection available in our area, would provide a positive impact to our current and future employees for many years. Almost everything we can and want to provide is dependent on having a connection to internet services.

The residents in the area would benefit enormously from this project and I hope you will consider Harmony Telephone Company for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas R. Cray", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Thomas R. Cray
Mayor
Chester, Iowa

Cray Insurance Agency

P.O. Box 38
Chester, Iowa
52134
Ph. 563-565-2535
1-800-388-CRAY(2729)
Fax 563-565-2495

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July 21st, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

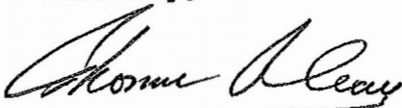
re: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Grant Program
NOFA#006

To Whom it may Concern,

For our business and the ability to write Insurance we need to have and fast and reliable Internet. At the Current time we don't have either one. When we lose our internet services we can not do anything as everything is done by internet. Our phones don't work, We can not rate or make changes to policy's or anything.!

The local truck stop in fact has two internet company's right now because they can not rely on just one. So they are paying for two internets so they can run Credit Cards and remain open. We are all very excited about the chance of getting high speed internet, plowed into Chester. This will open up a lot of possibilities for our City.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Gray