

July 13, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
State of Iowa

To Whom it May Concern:

Farmers & Merchants Mutual Telephone Company (Farmtel) recently contacted the Board of Supervisors to ask for a letter in support of their application for grant funds made available by the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant program released on July 1, 2021.

Farmtel currently provides broadband service via fiber and wireless broadband in parts of Jefferson County and is seeking to expand their area of service (by means of a grant) into portions of rural Jefferson County that are currently deemed unserved or underserved.

We know there are portions of our County where residents and businesses struggle to receive reliable fast broadband and as a result are disadvantaged in education, business, health care, government, and e-commerce because of the lack of quality broadband service.

We support the application of Farmtel to connect our rural Jefferson County residents and businesses to high speed broadband via fiber and know that the locations they are seeking to serve will be positively impacted by their construction.

As more citizens seek to leave overcrowded metropolitan districts for a quieter rural way of life the Board would like them to consider rural Jefferson County as their new home. With the addition of fiber broadband to these locations the move to rural Jefferson County becomes even more appealing as work from home and school from home become a reality.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dee Sandquist
Jefferson County, IA Board of Supervisors
641-451-1293

I want to strongly express my support for Farmers and Merchants Mutual Telephone Company to expand its fiber optic network services into rural Jefferson County, IA.

During the Covid 19 Pandemic it became very evident that reliable, consistent, and efficient communication were important factors in my ability to work from home and have my children learning from home.

Internet in my area has improved over the years, but I need to have faster, more dependable service to support my every-day personal and business needs.

Farmers and Merchants Mutual Telephone Company has been a reliable service provider in the area for some time now and I look forward to seeing their fiber optic network expand into my rural area near Germanville, IA in Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

/S/ Laura Atwood

Fairfield Middle School Principal, Fairfield, IA

641-233-7015