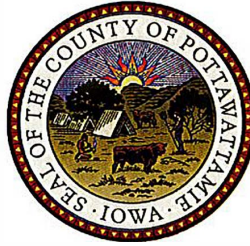


Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors

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Scott A. Belt, Chairman
Tim Wichman, Chairman Pro Tem
Lynn Grobe
Justin Schultz
Brian Shea

Regular sessions held weekly, each Tuesday

Andrew Moats, Executive Assistant

July 14, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
State of Iowa

To Whom it May Concern:

Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company (METC) recently attended a Board of Supervisors meeting 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.

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

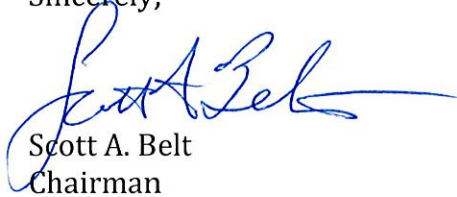
We know there are portions of our County where residents and businesses struggle to receive reliable fast broadband and as a result are disadvantaged in education, business, health care, and government and e-commerce because of the lack of quality broadband service.

We support the application of METC to connect our rural Pottawattamie County residents to high speed broadband via fiber and know that the approximate 600 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 Pottawattamie County as their new home. With the addition of fiber broadband to these locations the move to rural Pottawattamie County becomes even more appealing as work from home and school from home become a reality.

Upon a successful grant application and subsequent award, the Board of Supervisors has agreed to pledge \$10,000 to METC to support the build of fiber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Belt", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Scott A. Belt
Chairman

Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors