



State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer

Attn: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program - Review Committee

Hoover State Office B

1305 East Walnut

Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Holstein, Iowa Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Ida County Economic Development has been engaged in pursuing broadband initiatives offered through the Empower Rural Iowa program since inception of the Task Force Committee. We coordinated the first public meeting for the Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force in Holstein.

Our organization has identified through confidential Synchronist meetings with our major employers the need for reliable high speed broadband access in order to grow industry and workforce in our region. Broadband has been identified through our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, City of Holstein Comprehensive & Strategic plans. We understand the priority of technology led economic development.

We appreciate the investment that Evertek and North West REC are considering for the Holstein community. We believe these partners will deliver the broadband access that is so desperately needed. The Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program is providing the opportunity to truly impact our region for decades.

We look forward to working with our partners to bring this project forward. Please advise if we can be of further assistance.

Thank you for your consideration this grant application.

Sincerely,

Rita Frahm, Pres.

Rita Frahm,

President

Ida County Economic Development

200 Moorehead Avenue

Ida Grove, IA 51445

712.364.3181

**CITY OF HOLSTEIN****PO Box 500 • 119 S Main St Ph: 712-368-4898 • www.holsteiniowa.org****Holstein IA 51025 administrator@holsteiniowa.org • holstein@netllc.net**

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program – Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

The City of Holstein is a small, thriving community in Northwest Iowa with a population of approximately 1300. We fully support the possibility of a fiber network being available to our businesses and residents. From economic opportunities to better healthcare, education, and housing opportunities, our businesses and residents can only benefit and flourish from a reliable fiber network in our community.

It has been reported that the number of kindergarten students entering our school system this fall is the highest it has been in many years at 53, which is the highest it has been in many years. Our community is growing. High speed internet access enhances our education and provides more opportunities for our students that may not have direct access as those in larger cities such as those having community colleges. We are a school district combined with other towns and have several student buildings. Connectivity is crucial for students to learn and connect with teachers.

The availability of a high-speed fiber network would allow our small businesses to run more effectively and efficiently. High speed broadband can create a bigger market for our local businesses. When our businesses succeed, our community succeeds bringing additional community services, amenities we can provide, housing and job opportunities.

On behalf of the Holstein City Council, we look forward to the possibility of having Evertek partnering with North West REC to bring a high-speed fiber network to Holstein and we fully support their efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Breyfogle".

Kathy Breyfogle
Mayor, City of Holstein

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa Pudenz".

Theresa Pudenz
City Administrator

**Holstein Development Authority
Holstein, Iowa 51025**

**State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319**

To Whom It May Concern:

I, representing the Holstein Development Authority of Holstein, we would like to show our support of fiber optic becoming a part of our community. As an appointed committee, we try our best to improve our community by re-vamping dilapidated buildings and selling to businesses coming to Holstein. We purchased our closed theater, re-modeled and have a manager and community volunteers running it. Fiber would be a huge considerable improvement for our theater, which relies on quality Internet connectivity to provide patrons the best movie experience. Fiber would help us sell our community to future businesses and families wishing to move to our community.

**Thank you,
Holstein Development Authority
Brenda Cronin Vice-President**



NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
31002 County Road C38
PO Box 240
Le Mars, Iowa 51031-0240
712-546-4141
FAX 712-546-8795
www.nipco.coop

July 2, 2021

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program – Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

To Whom it May Concern:

Please consider this letter of support for N.E.T. Broadband in their efforts to provide broadband services to areas of rural western Iowa.

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative serving the energy requirements of our seven-member electric cooperatives in western Iowa since 1949. NIPCO ultimately serves over 30,000 electric services throughout rural western Iowa.

NIPCO is acutely aware of the utilities needs of our members. Access to quality broadband services in rural areas has been challenging for our membership. NIPCO has worked closely with N.E.T. Broadband over the past decade in their efforts to provide quality broadband services to rural western Iowa. N.E.T. Broadband's expertise in providing economical, reliable rural broadband services has been very beneficial to our rural members.

NIPCO fully supports N.E.T. Broadband's efforts to expand their broadband services within our service territory boundaries. Their broadband services are essential to future economic growth in western Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew R. Washburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent.

NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE (NIPCO)
Matthew R. Washburn
Executive Vice President & General Manager



North Ida Builders LLC

Cobblestone Inn & Suites-Holstein

2011 Indorf Ave
Holstien, IA 51025
Phone (712) 368-6200

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

Greetings, I am Stacy Brown, President and Co-Founder of North Ida Builders, LLC. We proudly own and operate a Cobblestone Inn & Suites located in Holstein, IA. As a small business located in a rural community, connectivity is the key to our ability to conduct business and enable growth. Fast and reliable high-speed internet is not a luxury for our business, rather it is a necessity. We understand that this speed and reliable connectivity can only come from fiber. As such, we would like to lend our voice of support to Evertek's effort to bring fiber to our community.

As we talk with fellow business owners in our area, we have found a lack of speed and reliable connectivity greatly reduces their ability to conduct daily business in Holstein and surrounding areas. We have encountered the same frustrations in our own business. As a member of a small rural community, I see how unnecessary barriers to economic growth puts the future of small towns at risk. Without high-speed, reliable connectivity, businesses are unwilling to invest in or remain in these small hometowns. Small communities are dying as residents and businesses seek opportunity elsewhere. Providing greater connectivity and speeds gives both residents and businesses the ability to stay competitive in the current marketplace.

As a business owner in a small community, I look forward to not only reaping the benefits of this project, but also engaging with NWREC and their partners to bring reliable highspeed connectivity to Holstein. Our dealings with them in the past have given us the utmost confidence in their ability to complete this project and enhance the lives of our residents as well as enhance the service and profitability of our local businesses.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stacy Brown
President – North Ida Builders, LLC



North Ida Investments/Holstein Travel Center

2010 Indorf Ave
Holstien, IA 51025
Phone (712) 368-6210

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee
Hoover State Office B
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319

Greetings, I am Christopher Brown Director and Co-Founder of North Ida Investments in Holstein, IA. As a small business located in a rural community, connectivity is the key to our ability to conduct business and enable growth. In this unprecedented era of technology, fast and reliable high-speed internet is no longer a luxury. It is necessary for continued and future viability of communities and businesses. We understand that this speed and reliable connectivity can only come from fiber. As such, we are supportive of NWREC and Evertek's effort to bring fiber to our community.

As we talk with fellow business owners in our area, we have found a lack of speed and reliable connectivity greatly reduces their ability to conduct daily business in our town. We have encountered the same frustrations in our own business. As a member of a smaller rural community, I see how unnecessary barriers to economic growth puts the future of small towns at risk. High speed connectivity allows businesses to stay competitive and provide economic benefits to both residents and other partner businesses, allowing rural communities to continue to thrive.

As a business owner in a small community, I look forward to not only reaping the benefits of this project, but also in helping NWREC and their partners bring reliable highspeed connectivity to Holstein. Our dealings with them in the past have given us the utmost confidence in their ability to complete this project and enhance the lives of our residents as well as enhance the service and profitability of our local businesses.

Thank you,

Christopher Brown
Director – North Ida Investments

**AGNEW & SOSEMAN
INSURANCE AGENCY**
P.O BOX 470, HOLSTEIN, IA 51025-0470
PHONE 712-368-4341
Since 1920

State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Office
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To whom it may concern:

We are an Insurance Agency that has been in business for over 100 years in Holstein, our small community in Northwest Iowa. We are proud of our third-generation operations. Our industry is 100% dependent on phone and internet service. It is imperative that we receive the most efficient and uninterrupted service for us to remain competitive and to offer the best service we possibly can to our customers.

We believe our future depends on the reliability and bandwidth of the internet. To this end, we fully support Evertex's effort to bring fiber optics to our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Kistenmacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name.

David Kistenmacher



Jeff Cronin Trucking, LTD.

427 S. Hamburg

Holstein, IA 51025

712-368-4537 • 800-742-0180 • FAX: 712-368-2762

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*I am Brenda Cronin co-owner of **Spirits, Stogies & Stuff** and **Jeff Cronin Trucking Ltd.** of Holstein. Our Liquor store is dependent on the Internet for ordering our liquor, beer wine and other products we offer. Our vendors, including the Iowa ABD have gone to online ordering due to lack of workers. We also offer a floral shop, and online floral is of the up most importance also. On the trucking side, E-logs are Internet dependent, so a reliable and fast Internet is essential for the success of both businesses. We as business owners are in full support of Fiber becoming a part of our community.*

*Thank you,
Brenda Cronin*