



Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center Schools

AC/GC High School

906 School Street

Guthrie Center, IA 50115

AC/GC JH, AC Elem

3384 Indigo Ave

Adair, IA 50002

GC Elementary

900 N 4th St

Guthrie Center, IA 50115

Dennis McClain - Superintendent
Diane Flanery - GC Elem Principal

Ethan Lensch - HS Principal
Karla Mahaffey - Curriculum Director

Chris Douglas - JH/AC Elem Principal
Cody Matthewson - Activities Director

July 15, 2021

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

Re: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support Casey Mutual Telephone's application to the *Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant #006* program. I live in a rural area outside of Guthrie Center, Iowa and the lack of broadband access has had a significant impact on me and my neighbors. As the superintendent of the AC/GC School District, I understand firsthand the challenge that a lack of broadband has on many families in our district. I also am keenly aware of the challenge because I have limited access to broadband at my home as well. Our inability to work and learn from home puts us at a significant disadvantage compared to those locations that do have access to reliable, modern broadband. Casey Mutual Telephone's project will directly support many residences and family farms in my area and the school district.

As an educational leader, I believe this project is needed for children to be able to learn and families to remain connected to work and family. It is also needed to attract and retain the workforce talent and families to our area. When students are underserved, it also greatly impacts their parents, who must find creative ways to get access for their children. Fiber networks have also been shown to help improve property values. Strong property values help support the school district financially. The construction of a fiber network would be a significant step towards addressing these problems.

I urge you to consider supporting their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dennis McClain'.

Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program

RE: Casey Mutual Telephone Rural Fiber Project

It is our privilege to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Casey Mutual Telephone to be awarded funding under the Iowa Broadband Grant Program.

We, more than anyone else, can testify how vital fast, reliable internet connection is for a household and business. We live in the rural area and have struggled to have reliable internet services for years. We have only had access to services through one large company and they certainly did not care about rural small town Iowa customers. Unable to reach customer service was a daily struggle for everyone due to all prompts that were computer generated and never being able to talk to a real live person. I left messages that were returned by computer activated messages that never solved the issues. In our farming operation, we constantly need use of the internet for parts and prices, equipment sales, livestock resources and supplies, paying bills and corresponding with government agriculture departments. With intermittent internet services, it made it nearly impossible to run our business. Not only is internet service important to businesses, but for education purposes of children within the household. We had junior and senior high school and college students that desperately needed internet services to complete homework, work on financial matters with college payments and loans, take tests on line and they were not able to complete these tasks without struggling to have that internet connection. Many times, they had to seek out other facilities to complete these tasks.

One of the best days of our lives, was when Casey Mutual Telephone advised us, we could receive services to our home and business. They came to our property to talk about options of how and where we wanted services installed. When they came back to do the work, their staff is polite and friendly and respectful of our home. Services were installed quickly and efficiently with minimal disturbance to our property and home. Our lives have been more peaceful and more efficient because we are now able to run our business and home business on a daily basis with great internet services. The customer service at Casey Mutual Telephone is top notch. Your phone call is answered by friendly staff and within minutes they either are sending a technician to our home or they are able to answer our questions and resolve any concern or issue over the phone within minutes. We know that if a problem arises, it can be resolved quickly. Many rural families and businesses would also benefit from broadband internet.

This company exemplifies the essence of community service by giving back to their community through donations to local fire departments, schools, libraries and town celebrations. The company serves their community in a professional and caring manner, which all companies should model their business from.

Thank you for considering our recommendation, and I hope Casey Mutual Telephone will be one of your grant recipients. We hope others can have the same great service that we do in this rural area.

Sincerely,

Teresa and Carey Noland
1318 Delta Avenue
Adair, Iowa 50002
Ph# 641-742-3350



A Homeowned Bank Investing In Hometown People

Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer

200 E Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50309

Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program

RE: Casey Mutual Telephone Rural Fiber Project

I am writing to express my strong support for Casey Mutual Telephone's application for funding under the Iowa Broadband Grant Program. Casey Mutual is community-focused broadband provider in our area and has an excellent reputation for providing great customer service, and their proposed project would bring fiber broadband access to many areas that are currently unserved and underserved.

As a financial institution, we are acutely aware of how vital a fast, reliable internet connection is for operating a business or a household. In particular, our agricultural economy in the region is very reliant on a quality broadband connection. Today, many farm operations struggle to get a quality connection. Casey Mutual's project will give these farm businesses, as well as households and other businesses, the type of connectivity they need to thrive today and well into the future.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will view Casey Mutual's application favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corrine Palmer".

Corrine Palmer, Branch Manager

1307 E. 7th Street * Atlantic, Iowa 50022 * 800-630-1210 * FAX 712-243-1423

Branch Locations: Adair * Anita * Brewster * Carson * Casey * Griswold * Menlo * Rippey * Stuart * Walnut * Wheatland * Worthington