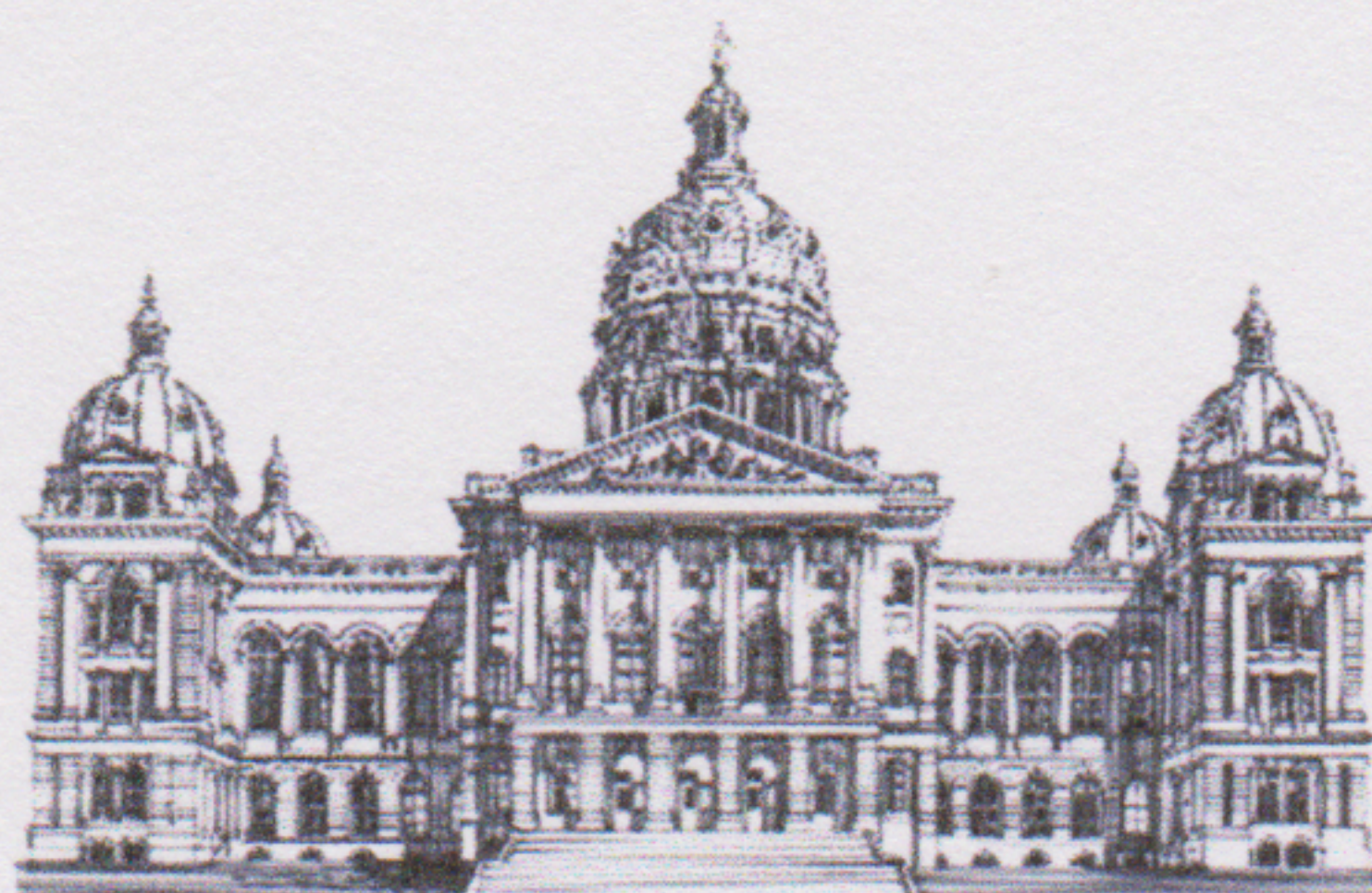


Michael Bergan
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House of Representatives

State of Iowa
Eighty-Ninth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
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COMMITTEES
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Administration & Regulation, *Vice*
Chair

July 12, 2021

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

Re: Alpine Communications – Broadband Grant Application

Dear Friends,

Alpine Communications continues to be a strong community support in expanding broadband opportunity to Iowans in their northeast Iowa service area. Alpine has been instrumental in making the necessary investments in our area to insure viability in communication infrastructure. With current fiber optic service expansion taking place, Alpine has developed a plan to bring comprehensive coverage to customers throughout their service area in less than four years.

Alpine is responsive to community needs, working with the city of Elkader and Clayton County on improved government services. The Central Community School District and Keystone AEA located in Elkader rely on their dependable services and broadband offerings to meet the educational needs of students and teachers in the area. MercyOne Elkader Medical Center relies on Alpine to help meet the area's medical needs. Business, industry, and agriculture in the vicinity are dependent upon Alpine's commitment to broadband to enhance their competitive advantage and viability in today's economy.

The Driftless area of northeast Iowa is blessed with a diverse topography and natural attributes that includes limestone bluff, cold-water trout streams and forests among our farm communities. These natural assets also contribute to challenges in communications, whether by cellphone, radio wave, microwave, or fiber optics. The hilly terrain and limestone limit the effectiveness of several communication options, increasing the costs substantially. I personally maintain a concern for our public safety, in having prompt response of police, fire, and ambulance services. The overall quality of life of Iowans who live or recreate in our "Little Switzerland" is enhanced with improved communication options.

I am encouraged by Alpine's leadership and initiative in meeting the broadband needs of our community, ensuring that customers have 100/100 broadband access. I support their application for grant assistance, attesting to the need in the expansion area. I ask that due diligence is made in review of their application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Bergan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Bergan