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July 19, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone (515) 281 5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program-NOFA #006


Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for Mechanicsville Telephone Company. Mechanicsville Telephone Company has had a long standing reputation for providing exceptional services and offering cutting edge progressive broadband technology to new customers. As a business owner and resident of Lisbon I would like to express my concern for the need of expanded broadband services. We currently have Mechanicsville Telephone Company services at our office including broadband but do not at our residence. We have been extremely happy with the newly installed fiber infrastructure Mechanicsville Telephone Company provided our office with and the connectivity has been flawless.

We currently do not have any options for broadband services at our residence of 2 Sutliff Rd Lisbon, which is in rural Lisbon. During the pandemic it became especially evident that we needed broadband at our residence to maintain our normal daily level of communication. Our underserved area lacked the ability to communicate with medical services. My son, an Iowa State University student, could not communicate using new distant learning methods. My wife and I were burdened with the inability to work from home. My case is not isolated. This is also the common scenario with the many rural families living in our area.

We are strongly requesting that the Chief Information Officer and Review Committee please approve the application for this Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant so that Mechanicsville Telephone Company can expand its network and install the fiber infrastructure needed to offer broadband services to rural Lisbon. The grant would allow them to make this economically viable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr Jared C. Nolz



Mechanicsville

TELEPHONE COMPANY

107 N. John St. | Mechanicsville, IA 52306 | (563) 432-7221 | www.mechanicsvilletel.net

Mechanicsville Telephone Company has a proven reputation for providing high quality reliable services. We successfully service our subscribers with an experienced and motivated team. Our mission is to give our subscribers the best experience they can have with the best technology available today.

Mechanicsville Telephone serves the communities of Mechanicsville and Lisbon. In 2017, we built fiber to 231 underserved homes in and around the unincorporated communities of Buchanan and Cedar Bluff. We also placed fiber in underserved parts of rural Tipton and Lisbon. Residents in these areas deserved a high-quality broadband service that so many others have today. We have a 100% penetration rate in these underserved areas that we built. We placed this fiber with our own funding.

Mechanicsville Telephone has the experience to support the customers in the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband NOFA #006 area. We hope our proven record with underserved customers will be considered during review. Our focus is to serve underserved broadband customers both residential and business as we do today. Mechanicsville Telephone uses the best technology available. We will use technology on this project capable of 10Gig for growth in the future.

Overview of our commitment to broadband as follows:

In 2014, construction for a fiber to the home project in Mechanicsville \$651,000.

In 2015, construction for a fiber to the home project in Mechanicsville \$856,000.

In 2017, construction for a fiber to the home project in rural Mechanicsville, Lisbon, Cedar Bluff and Buchanan \$3,573,000.

In 2019, construction for a fiber to the home project in Lisbon \$1,232,000

In 2020, construction for a fiber to the home project in Lisbon \$2,317,000.

Reliable broadband service is becoming more of a necessity each passing day. As shown, Mechanicsville Telephone Company supports the construction of fiber in underserved areas of Iowa. We are committed to grow high quality reliable broadband service to the rural Iowa community.

Sincerely,

Hans Arwine
General Manager
Mechanicsville Telephone Company