

CITY OF MOULTON
111 South Main Street
Moulton, IA 52572

PH/FAX: 641-642-3328

MAYOR-Jason Ogden

CLERK/TREASURER- Vicki Withrow

CITY ATTORNEY- Nicole Cox

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jewel Thompson

Terry Pangburn

Susan Fitzgerald

Mary Boyd

Warren Daniels

July 26, 2021

I am writing this letter of support for Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company's application for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program NOFA 006. FMCTC has provided telephone, internet, and television services in the Moulton community since 1905.

Their interest in expanding their services to more areas in rural Appanoose County is commendable. I receive many compliments about our service provider and wishing they had the provider choices our Moulton community has. FMCTC has the ability to provide high-speed broadband internet in the proposed areas and should be considered for additional funding to make it happen.

Sincerely,



Jason Ogden, Mayor

City of Moulton



Moulton-Udell Community Schools



305 East Eighth Street • Moulton, Iowa 52572

Fax: (641)642-8351

<http://www.moulton-udell.k12.ia.us>

Brian VanderSluis
Superintendent
(641) 641-3665

Shane Brown
Pre-K - 12 Principal
(641) 642-8131

Lynnette Lemen
Board Secretary
(641) 642-8133

July 26, 2021

Office of the Chief Information Officer
State of Iowa
200 East Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter to support Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company of Moulton IA's (FMCTC) application for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program NOFA #006.

The Moulton-Udell School District's *Return-to-Learn Plan* includes a virtual learning component which will require a robust broadband connection. While a majority of our students are already connected to FMCTC's fiber broadband, there are some students' households who are outside the existing service area provided by FMCTC. We have been working with FMCTC to identify how more of our students can be served by fiber in the event the school district has to implement the virtual learning portion of the *Return-to-Learn Plan* due to COVID-19.

The NOFA #006 funding opportunity will allow FMCTC to reach additional households that are in need of quality broadband internet service. Without the grant funding, it will remain difficult to serve the students in these households with virtual learning due to the absence of internet service or the poor quality, unreliability, and insufficiency of the internet service options that are available to them including satellite and cell phone data plans. This is primarily due to our local geography and the remoteness of these rural settings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shane Brown, M-U Principal