

July 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm happy to write a Letter of Support for East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative's grant application to the State of Iowa.

As a Buchanan County Supervisor, I know that East Buchanan Telephone Coop serves a majority of the eastern half of Buchanan County. They've always been good to work with and very supportive of their cooperative members in supplying them services for their residential and business activities.

It's my understanding that they now wish to serve an area on the very eastern fringe of Buchanan County where previously Internet speeds were lacking tremendously. I wholeheartedly support their efforts to bring high-speed broadband to those customers – one of which is our County Auditor's residence.

I also support their efforts to bring high speed Internet to the southern part of Buchanan County to the Linn County line, and effectively assist those residents and businesses along the Quasqueton Avenue route including Ridge Haven Cono school and retreat center. These areas that East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative has targeted are in dire need to higher speeds to conduct daily business, expand their school, and carry out daily life activities.

Where I live just outside of the traditional EBTC service area, there was inadequate Internet service to my own home for video-conferencing with my fellow county supervisors in the past year and so I know the pains of those living in underserved areas. **My wish would be for EBTC to be able to expand their service area so those nearby locations underserved by their traditional provider may be served by East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative. Grant funding from the State of Iowa would greatly enhance this opportunity.**

Again, I fully support East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative in their efforts to bring fiber Internet and high speed broadband to rural locations where it is so vitally important – it can't be deployed fast enough.

Thank you for your consideration,

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

Clayton Ohrt

Buchanan County Supervisor



OFFICE 112: Center for Commerce & Economic Development
112 1st Street East • P.O. Box 109 • Independence, IA 50644
office (319) 334.7497 • fax (319) 334.5982

To Whom it May Concern,

East Buchanan Telephone Coop (EBTC) has recently expanded its area of coverage and brought high-speed data and fiberoptics to residents who have been critically underserved. There are still significant areas of Buchanan County that are continue to be critically underserved. With the help of this grant, EBTC will be able to continue the much-needed expansion to the Eastern and Southern edge of Buchanan County.

High speed internet is vital for access to healthcare, serving schools and their students, those who work from home, businesses and the ag community throughout Buchanan County. If this last year has taught us nothing more, it has taught us the expansion of high-speed internet throughout or rural areas is critical to staying competitive and being able to communicate with the world around us. Without high-speed internet, those areas and businesses located there are at a severe disadvantage economically.

Included in this discussion is the need to update connectivity within Winthrop and Quasqueton. The businesses within these communities struggle with advancing in commerce because of the lack of reliable fast internet.

Buchanan County Economic Development fully supports and backs EBTC as it applies for these grants and continues to provide the services needed to continue to advance economic development within our county. Without these grants and the foresight of EBTC to pursue this much needed expansion, Buchanan County would lag behind economically and as a place to attract new businesses and residents.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Kremer".

Lisa Kremer
Executive Director
Buchanan County Economic Development



EAST BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**ADMINISTRATION**

Daniel J. Fox
Superintendent
 Eric Dockstader
Secondary Principal
 Daniel J. Fox
Elementary Principal
 Teresa Knipper
Board Secretary/Business Manager



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Monday, July 26, 2021

Mike Becker
 General Manager
 East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative
 214 3rd St. North PO Box 100
 Winthrop, Iowa 50682

Dear Mr. Becker:

This letter is to support the East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative goal to expand fiber optics in their service territory. The East Buchanan Community School is located in Winthrop, Iowa and most of the families that the school provides educational services are also the same families that the EB Telephone provides telephone/internet services to. It is a great asset to the school district to have the services that EB Telephone provides.

In this changing world, education is moving more and more toward approaches that utilize technology. East Buchanan School will use formats such as Google Classroom, Seesaw and JMC, which all are formats for communicating to students as well as parents for everyday classroom expectations. The East Buchanan School District website is also a place for patrons to get the school news, calendar and social media feeds to keep updated on all events that are happening at the school. All of this requires reliable internet for our students/parents to be successful.

So yes, with the ever-changing world the district is facing, we definitely support the East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative and their efforts to expand fiber to help better provide services to our families and students that live in multiple communities of Winthrop, Quasqueton, and Aurora. Our district is very much a rural district, so a good percentage of our students come from the rural homes within our community. So again, we support the EB Telephone Cooperative for reaching out to serving ALL of our families that live not only in our small towns, but on the surrounding farms that are the staple of our community.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Fox, Superintendent/Elementary Principal
 East Buchanan Community School District

July 27, 2021

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative
PO Box 100
214 3rd Street N
Winthrop IA 50682

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter requesting to be considered to have fiber optics in our area. We live at 2531 Buchanan Delaware Ave, Masonville IA. In that area there are approximately 6 families in Middlefield Township, Sections 13, 24 and 36 that could be served. Also, two more families along the east side of the road which is Delaware County that could utilize the fiber optics.

I have not personally spoke to these families, however I am sure if the service was available it would be considered. Unfortunately in our area choices of any type of internet services is extremely limited.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider expanding your fiber optic service to our area. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Wilgenbusch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kris Wilgenbusch

319-361-4866

From: Terrance Wade <wtg63602@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Mike Becker <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>
Subject: The "JOKER-net"

Hello Mike! Hope you're having a nice day, first of all, please stay out of the sun for the next few days!

I'm writing this email to you to express my disappointment in what EBTC calls the "joker-net," what other Americans would call the Internet, and it's extremely slow speed.

I have a teenage daughter in high school and she's been living with me for the last two years because of Covid, and she attends school in Cedar Rapids remotely from my house, which is in a remote part of Buchanan County, near the Delaware County line. The Internet speed right now in my area is atrocious and that's putting it kindly. I'm sure you can imagine the frustrations with dealing with an extremely slow Internet, slow connections slow responses, very frustrating for my daughter attempting to do her schoolwork, to the point where we've had to contact US cellular and request Internet from their cellular network. The Internet out here is so slow, in fact, that we are considering canceling the service and just going with US Cellulars' cellular Internet network, for a much higher price.

I know EBTC counts on federal funding, and I fully support (as does my daughter) your desire to acquire additional federal funding to install fiber optics and high-speed Internet in my remote area of the county. In order for my daughter to complete her schoolwork, high speed Internet is the minimum requirement.

I know the wealthy suburban and urban neighborhoods all have high-speed Internet, why can't the hard-working farmers out in the remote areas of Iowa counties also receive the same benefit?

Years ago I served in the United States military, and I believe every American should be treated equal, especially when it comes to Internet speed. I wish you the best in lobbying our government for the funding to provide remote customers like myself the ability to travel the Internet at the same speed at which my urban counterparts are allowed to travel the internet!!

Thanks again, Mike!

Terry Tibbott
3321 220th St
Masonville IA 50654