

July 25, 2021

To who it may concern,

I've been asked to write a letter of support for East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative grant application and honored to do so.

We have lived in the Cooperative area for all our lives (over sixty years). We at times have had issues with internet and the speed of the internet. We have always had excellent customer service from EBTC and have tried new routers and tried increasing the speed usually with little success.

I've been Mayor for Winthrop for thirty years and increased speed and new fiber would be a welcome development for our town's businesses and local school district. This last year has been a struggle with video-conferencing, duo meetings and zoom meetings. This upgrade is badly needed for our area as businesses and public entities will be no doubt be using this type of technology more often.

I understand fiber implementation is in high demand but is crucial for the technology needed in today's world. Again, I fully support East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative attempt to bring Winthrop and areas around Winthrop, high speed broadband and fiber internet. It is very important for our community to continue growing and keeping up with the rest of the world when it comes to telecommunications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gerald W. Dennie

Mayor of Winthrop

215 Easy St

Winthrop Iowa 50682

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



OFFICE 112: Center for Commerce & Economic Development
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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



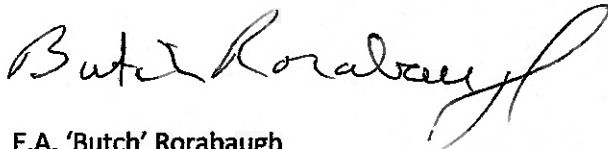
To Whom It May Concern,

I have been asked to write a Letter of Support for East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative's grant application to the State of Iowa and I am happy to do so.

As a recently retired telephone company manager, I have firsthand knowledge of the importance federal funding plays in the expansion of fiber optics. I also have firsthand knowledge of the shortfalls associated with those federal programs. Grants offered by the State of Iowa are a tremendous opportunity to fill in the gaps left by federal programs and insure fiber access to ALL Iowans. Whether it is for work or education, fiber optics is the key to success for rural Iowa and it cannot be deployed fast enough.

Again, I fully support East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative in their efforts to replace copper facilities with fiber optics in rural locations where it is so vitally important and encourage you to approve their application.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Butch Rorabaugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

E.A. 'Butch' Rorabaugh

Mike Becker

From: Kelle Bowden <kellebowden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Mike Becker
Subject: Fiber Optic

Good afternoon Mike,

I am writing about the fiber optic update that EB Telephone is supposed to be upgrading. I am a business owner in Winthrop. I rely heavily on the internet at work. At times I have troubles with slow and unreliable connection. I also get kicked off the internet if I have too many devices on at a time. I would like our location to be considered for the fiber optic upgrade.

Thank you,

Kelle Bowden
Designs Unlimited LLC
319-935-37455

From: jrhiggins@netins.net <jrhiggins@netins.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Mike Becker <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>
Subject: grant for fiber optic

To whom it may concern:

This letter is being sent to support East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative's goal to expand fiber optics in our rural area. It is my understanding that our area relies heavily on federal funding to bring reliable internet service.

The Covid pandemic has proved the importance of high speed broadband for all, not just for those in metropolitan areas. Internet issues must be updated! It is crucial to all of us who are relying on the internet to meet educational goals, job and business expectations, medical needs, or to combat isolation.

Thank you,

Former 40 year educator, grandparent, and 48 year member of E.B. Telephone Cooperative,

Janet Higgins

554 4th Street North

Winthrop IA