



August 7, 2023

Ms. Jessica Turba  
Special Projects Administrator  
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)  
200 East Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Rural Waukon– OCIO #8 application

Ms. Turba:

The City of Waukon believes broadband is essential to economic growth in the 21st century. This became starkly apparent over the past two years as the coronavirus pandemic deepened Americans' reliance on the internet. Families need the internet to access essential services, including education and health care, while small businesses and entrepreneurs need it to improve their operations and reach more customers to bring new economic opportunities to left-behind communities. Though many schools and offices are now reopened, the pandemic has illustrated not only that broadband internet access at home will remain an indispensable utility in the future, but also that it's an equity issue.

The city fully supports the application from Allamakee Clayton Electric Cooperative (ACEC) for OCIO #8. The proposed application serves 16 homes in and around our city. It just makes financial sense for ACEC to assist these homes while building our city with fiber. ACEC's pricing of \$59.99, \$89.99 and \$129.99 is affordable for our families and businesses. The options of having 100/100 or even 1000/1000 is a great benefit to the growth our city.

We want our residents and business to flourish. We need this funding to assist our county in economic growth. Please see favorably on this application. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Arvid Hatlan  
Mayor