

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

COURTHOUSE

SIDNEY, IOWA 51652

TELEPHONE (712) 374-2415

August 22, 2023

Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Support and Affordability of Midwest Data's Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to voice our strong support for Midwest Data Center's grant application to the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program. Their proposal aims to bring fiber access to homes and businesses in Zone 40 of Fremont County, addressing a critical need for improved connectivity in our community. We endorse the affordability and value of Midwest Data's service packages, which we believe will greatly benefit our citizens and businesses.

We are excited to have Midwest Data Center in our region, as their track record in providing quality broadband service in neighboring areas like northwest Missouri and southern Iowa speaks to their expertise and commitment. These fiber packages, designed with equity in mind, have proven their worth, especially during challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the essential and unique particular advantages of quality fiber infrastructure has over other means of internet service, we are hopeful that Midwest Data Center secures the funding needed to extend reliable broadband services to as many communities as possible.

Fremont County proudly submits this letter in support of the Empower Rural Iowa Grant Program application. We urge you to grant Midwest Data's application as it is the key to equip our county's residents with essential tools for success. Please feel free to contact me at cclark@co.fremont.ia.us or 712-374-2031 if you require further information or have any questions.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "C".

Chris Clark, Chairman
Fremont County Board of Supervisors



A Bright Look Ahead™

August 23, 2023

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

RE: Support for Midwest Data to provide broadband to ITQs 40 & 60

To whom it may concern;

Southwest Iowa Planning Council, a council of governments and economic development district that serves 8 counties in Southwest Iowa, strongly supports Midwest Data's proposal to extend fiber optic internet to the eligible locations within ITQs 40 and 60 under the current OCIO NOFO #8. Midwest Data is a valued local partner that will be building upon its existing network and doing so in a way that extends broadband internet in an affordable manner. We are especially supportive of the fact that Midwest Data is proposing to install fiber optic cable, which is our preferred method of future proofing this major investment. Likewise, we believe that Midwest Data's proposed packages and rates are affordable, especially for Fremont County, which has historically seen high rates of poverty and low household incomes.

SWIPCO is charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) for the region with the US Economic Development Administration. This investment by Midwest Data, if awarded, aligns perfectly with our long term economic development needs of the region.

Please consider SWIPCO as being in full support of Midwest Data's proposal under NOFO #8.

Sincerely,

John P. McCurdy, AICP
Executive Director