

August 22, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my support of Kalona Cooperative Technology Company, as KCTC works to provide broadband internet service to Rural Columbus Junction, Louisa County Iowa. There are currently few internet options available in my area, and of the options that are available, the data speeds are very low. To complicate matters, the cell phone service in many parts of the county is spotty, meaning the most rural areas have no digital connectivity whatsoever.

As a resident of Louisa County, I am highly in favor of KCTC providing us with access to broadband internet. I can attest to the hardship the lack of service causes the families of this community. Our children are not able to participate in distance learning, they are not able to conduct adequate research for homework or school projects, and they're not able to fill out online applications for college scholarships or entrance.

In addition, I myself am not able to work from home due to the speed we have currently. I am a registered nurse and could have a job working from home but give our internet I am unable to do so. I drive almost an hour a way to work a part time job so my family can have health insurance. We are also a farming family that depends on us keeping up with technology and we are not able to do so. We most of the time go to family members or into town to a library. It is getting very difficult to run our family business with the lack of internet service.

I believe access to broadband internet is no longer an amenity, but rather a necessity. It will not only enhance the quality of life in the community, but it will also serve as an avenue to connect us with the digital resources that we are now missing. KCTC offers speeds of 100/100 and greater at extremely affordable pricing that all can afford. The speeds and pricing are really affordable.

I strongly encourage you to approve the grant request that Volunteer Energy has submitted on the behalf of KCTC and would love our little corner of the rural to keep up with the technology that is available.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

*Missy Brown*

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