

September 13, 2023

To: Office of the Chief Information Officer for the State of Iowa

Re: NOFA #8

My Name is Rory Degen, owner of Premier Ag Supply LLC, a business I started in July of 2019 in rural Schleswig IA. I understand that Evertek, Inc. has recently applied for funding through NOFA #8 to expand fiber services into Schleswig and rural Schleswig. I am writing to support this application.

With ground at a premium in town I was able to purchase some outside of town to build my building. In the rush of building a new building to start my business, the internet was one of the last things on my mind. The lack of options was concerning as I had to go with the only option available at the time. Service at times out here has been unreliable and has cost me days of getting anything done because my internet was down. Secondly as a resident of the town of Schleswig for the past 11+ years I have had 4 residences as I have been able to upgrade my housing situation with the success of my career. All the places I have lived I had reliable internet until my last move in June 2022. I was able to purchase a house on the local golf course (in my mind a newer part of town) and I come to find out the local internet company that I have had since I have moved to Schleswig is full in that part of town. I had to scramble to find some sort of internet service and in town and my options were again limited and the service is nowhere near reliable enough to do all the things I used the internet for (TV streaming, online gaming, internet shopping) The lack of competition in the town has made the one company in town complacent with keeping up with the technology and the town has and will continue to suffer. With people looking to relocate to rural areas Schleswig will be overlooked with the lack of internet service needed for those people.

I will be the first to sign up to Evertek's service for my home and business in Schleswig. They have affordable packages starting as low as \$58 a month for 50/50 service with other speed offerings up to 1 gig and more. They have several packages and an affordable package that will benefit the households of Schleswig.

Rory Degen



Owner

Premier Ag Supply LLC

1529 Hwy 59

Schleswig, IA 51461