



## Jim Hughes Real Estate, LLC

Homes • Acreages • Farms  
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State of Iowa, Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Attn: Iowa Broadband Grant Program-Review Committee  
Hoover State Office B  
1305 E. Walnut  
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Letter of Support for Grant Application

To whom it may concern:

Jim Hughes Real Estate would like to offer strong support for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband grant being submitted by Western Iowa Networks for the construction of a fiber network in rural southwest Iowa. This project will be extremely beneficial to our rural communities. This is greatly important as more and more people are working from home.

Our company is actively involved in the development and sale of real estate in Southwest Iowa, and we can confirm firsthand how important Broadband service is to this area. The presence of reliable broadband service is becoming more and more important for prospective homebuyers all the time. Having access to quality broadband service, especially fiber, can increase home values and make it easier to attract and retain homeowners in a given area. In many areas of Southwest Iowa, such as many rural subdivisions and small towns, this type of service is lacking, and the approval of this application would be a good step toward making broadband service more accessible.

We ask you to seriously consider awarding Western Iowa Network the grant funds they are requesting for this project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Steele".

Anne Steele

Jim Hughes Real Estate, Board of Directors