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November 13, 2020

To: Office of the Chief Information Officer
Regarding: Alpine Communications Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

The Clayton County Development Group strongly endorses Alpine Communications for the broadband grant opportunity. As an organization promoting development and tourism, we recognize how critical it is to provide high-speed broadband to rural Iowa residents and visitors.

For future growth and expansion of industries, businesses and agricultural development, technology is the component that determines the growth in rural Iowa.

During this pandemic, we have recognized the demand for broadband as visitors now can work from anywhere. Rural Clayton County experienced a high volume of over 205,842 arrivals that expect high-speed internet to work, connect, and stay informed.

Broadband is vital for agribusinesses, including robotic dairies, large production facilities, and precision agriculture, to continue to grow and supply the commodities.

Broadband is needed more than before during this time for education and distance learning, for telehealth, remote workers, and to conduct daily business via video conferencing. The pandemic has amplified the need for high-speed fiber broadband service to keep Clayton County connected.

The Clayton County Development Group depends on Alpine Communications' high-speed internet to conduct business, inform industries of opportunities, host business training, and hold board meetings to continue the daily operations. As we provide many resources for new and existing businesses, today's economy depends on fiber optics.

We highly recommend considering supporting Alpine Communications grant application to provide rural Iowa the necessary high-speed fiber-optic broadband that it needs.

Respectfully,

Darla Kelchen

Clayton County Development Group
Executive Director

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