

To whom it may concern,

Our family lives in rural Washington county between Kalona and Riverside IA. When we moved to the country almost 13 years ago, internet service in rural areas was about the same speed as in town. Since then, we've been left behind when it comes to internet speed and reliability. The options for our address are few and they fail to meet our needs.

We have two daughters in 4th and 7th grades, since kindergarten their teachers have used web-based applications to supplement their in-class instructional time. Our internet service struggles to support two iPads much of the time. The added demands of remote learning for our daughters has resulted in frustration and tears when Zoom connections are lost, websites fail to load, and video constantly buffers.

Before COVID, I could work from home as needed however, due to our internet speeds I wasn't able to be as productive as I was in the office. Since March I have been required to work from home. I work for Collins Aerospace and have been told to plan on working from home for at least another 7 months. My position requires up to 8 hours of Zoom conferencing and our rural internet does not provide enough bandwidth to support my needs.

In addition to my work and our daughters' schoolwork, we also require internet to support my husband's self-employment as a farmer. Farming has becoming increasingly reliant on technology over the past decade. From bookkeeping to various field management software, all have moved to web-based applications.

In order to attempt to meet our needs we have added a cellular hotspot to our rural service provided internet. We currently pay \$200 a month for internet that still doesn't meet the needs of an average family. To be honest we would gladly pay that amount if we had unlimited data at reasonable speeds. To live within a mile of high-speed rural internet and struggle daily with work and schooling has been frustrating to say the least. We are lucky to live in a community with a strong cooperative technology company. Many of our neighbors have been fortunate to have KCTC as a provider of fiber optic internet for years. We have heard nothing but great thing about the company and the quality of their services. It's not an exaggeration to say that being a part of their network would be life changing for my family. Our livelihoods and our daughter's education depend on it.

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