

November , 2020

Matt Behrens  
Deputy Chief Information Officer  
State of Iowa  
200 East Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Vinton Municipal Communications Utility Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant

Dear Deputy Chief Behrens,

I am writing as a business owner and resident of Vinton, Iowa. My business is completely dependent on access to high quality broadband service that is reliable, provided at an affordable rate and supported by a local broadband services entity. Now, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the pressure on many businesses, increasing reliance on ecommerce, teleconference resources, and remote work arrangements.

Rural Iowa Broadband Grant applications from communications service providers should reduce or eliminate unserved and underserved areas in our community through the installation of 25/3 broadband or 100/20 broadband facilities. The Vinton Municipal Communications Utility (VMCU) will use its Iowa broadband grant funds to provide much needed 1 Gigabit downstream and 1 Gigabit upstream broadband service to the Vinton, Iowa business community and the area covered under this application.

Vinton is a growing community with an increasing number of residents and businesses. Today broadband coverage may be non-existent or limited in some areas making it difficult for emergency services to respond effectively. The safety of Vinton citizens is enhanced with the deployment of Gigabit broadband service to the Vinton community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the VMCU Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application.

Sincerely,

Kurt W. Karr