

# *City of Auburn*

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**MAYOR** – Richard Heim  
**CLERK** – Tammy Nuckolls

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## **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Jane Barto  
Cindy Finley  
Rick Carlyle  
Randy Schulte  
Bob Theulen

February 14, 2019

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

Dear Committee Members:

We are sending this letter in support of BTC, Inc.'s funding request for their proposed fiber optic construction project in the City of Auburn. Their request is important to small rural communities like Auburn because we need the competitive edge and economic advantage that broadband delivers. BTC, Inc. is willing to invest in Auburn's future by building broadband services that can adapt and expand as new technology is developed.

Our city understands community vitality hinges on more than just traditional economic development ventures. Research suggests broadband infrastructure in rural communities can help achieve important community goals, such as drawing employers to the community, increasing population retention, and increasing residents' satisfaction with their community. From an economic development standpoint, a fiber optic network would be extremely helpful for the future of our city.

Please give this request your full consideration. Broadband is a critical asset Auburn must have in order to be a competitive player in attracting business and industry to our small rural community. BTC, Inc. is an important partner in helping us expand and attract economic opportunities for rural Iowa. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Heim, Mayor

City of Auburn