

**Webster County Board of Supervisors**

701 Central Ave., 2nd Floor
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Email: supervisors@webstercountyia.org

Phone # (515) 573-7175

Fax # (515) 574-3714

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh).

As a resident of Webster County Iowa, I would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Webster County. With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack to ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

Mark Campbell
Chairman, Webster County Board of Supervisors

Mark Campbell
District 2

**Webster County Board of Supervisors**

701 Central Ave., 2nd Floor
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Email: supervisors@webstercountya.org

Phone # (515) 573-7175

Fax # (515) 574-3714

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh).

As a resident of Webster County Iowa, I would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Webster County. With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack to ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Carlson".

Nick Carlson

Webster County Board of Supervisors

Nick Carlson
District 5

City of Otho Box 160 205 N. Highway Street Otho, IA 50569
515-972-4441 Fax 515-972-4733 otho@frontier.com

July 30, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for City of Otho. With the assistance of this grant, Lehigh's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

We are a local government entity. Currently with Frontier we have slow internet service and experience outages very often.

Lehigh has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the City of Otho.

Sincerely,



Sherry Simmons, City Clerk
City of Otho
205 N Hwy Street
Otho, IA 50569
515.972.4441

Mark Groat, Mayor

Council Members: *Jimmy Beekman*

Brant Farrand

Marvin Fortune

Sherry Simmons, City Clerk
Gary Fox *Travis Stanberg*

Officers:

Chief: Marty Smith
Asst. Chief: Cody Wirt
Captain: Jason Ewing
Lieutenant: Rod Case
Field Lt: Dylan Hagen

Mailing Address:
205 N. Highway St.
Otho, Iowa 50569

Secretary: Linda Ewing

July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our Otho Fire and Rescue. With the assistance of this grant, Lehigh's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

We are the local Fire Department for Otho. Currently with Frontier we have slow internet service and experience outages very often lasting days at a time. It would also be nice to bring TV into the station for our Fire Fighters when they need to be there for various events.

Lehigh has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Otho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Marty Smith", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the page.

Marty Smith, Fire Chief

July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, Mary Roach, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,
Mary Roach

July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, Keegan Gerrard, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

Keegan Gerrard

July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

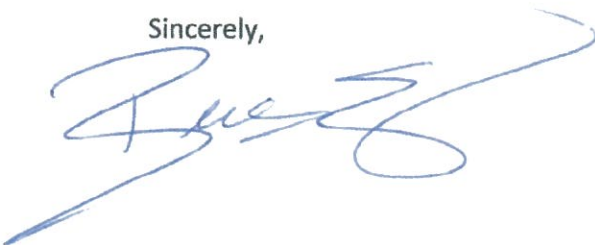
RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, David Svinge, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Osaka, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Osaka.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,



July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, Nathan Cropper, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,



July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, Melissa Ewing, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,



July 23, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I, Mark Weinzetl, am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

Mark Weinzetl

July 30, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh). As a resident of Otho, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Lehigh. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. Lehigh has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Lehigh's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Otho.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Lehigh will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack to ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa fund this Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Lehigh's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

