VISIONS NORTHWEST

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

September 6, 2022

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear National Telecommunication and Information Administration,

This letter is being written to express our support of Dairyland Power Cooperative's (DPC) Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project; a multifaceted endeavor that will bring about much needed middle mile infrastructure to predominately rural communities in south-east Minnesota, northern Iowa, south-west Wisconsin, and northwest Wisconsin through the NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program.

Visions Northwest is the one of nine state-recognized regional economic development organizations (REDOs) in Wisconsin. We work to address the development needs of regional projects and support regional economic development in Northwest Wisconsin.

Visions Northwest is fully cognizant of the significance of middle mile infrastructure to expand internet networks closer to unserved and underserved communities while offering equal opportunity for internet service providers to connect to last mile infrastructure in a cost-effective manner, ultimately promoting economic prosperity and closing the digital divide. DPC is committed to having a positive impact in northwest Wisconsin and surrounding areas by implementing middle mile infrastructure that will increase competition among local internet service providers, and subsequently lower costs and offer increased options for citizens.

Sincerely,

Crystal Rohde

Crystal Rohde
Administrator