September 20, 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.

Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company (CCT) has been a proud community partner for 117 years serving areas of Buffalo County, Wisconsin. In 2016 CCT began offering services to residents and businesses in the City of Alma. In 2018 the Town of Milton entered into a public-private partnership agreement with CCT to deploy an all-fiber network in the township. The Town of Cross and CCT entered into a public-private partnership to deploy an all-fiber network in the township in 2021. CCT now serves over 1,700 members with a 100% fiber to the home network providing telephone and broadband internet services.

Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company 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 Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company 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.

In this respect, we anticipate interconnecting with DPC's Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project to effectively meet the needs of the community by providing reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband connection to all.

Sincerely,

Shawn Squires
Chief Executive Officer
Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company