Your Cooperative Powering Your Future

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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, southwest Wisconsin, and northwest Wisconsin through the NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program.

CVEC and Citizens Connected, a telephone cooperative, formed the joint venture Ntera, LLC. Ntera is delivering Fiber to the Home (FTTH) via a 100% fiberoptic network, offering speeds of up to 1Gb/s, in addition to video and traditional phone service.

CVEC (as an equal partner in Ntera) 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 Chippewa County, WI 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 are very interested in 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,

Russ Falkenberg
Director of IT & Member Services, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative
Director, Ntera LLC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.