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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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September 15, 2022

The Honorable Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

I am pleased to support and recommend Dairyland Power Cooperative's (DPC) Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project for an award under the Enabling Middle Mile Grant Program. As a member of the National Rural Broadband Task Force, expanding access to broadband is one of my highest priorities. The internet is a necessity and has fundamentally changed the way we learn, communicate, access information, and conduct business, particularly throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Access to fast internet service is no longer a luxury item. Our rural constituents depend on these services more and more every day, from farmers using satellite images to monitor crops, to students learning remotely, or doctors using telemedicine to serve remote patients.

DPC's Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project will significantly encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure and connect unserved and underserved areas, 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 Wisconsin 3rd Congressional District and surrounding areas by implementing middle mile infrastructure that will increase competition among local internet service providers, and subsequently lower costs and offer high-speed options for citizens, which is a top priority for me.

These projects in rural areas covering many miles to reach a handful of customers are not economically viable without assistance. This project will bring about much-needed middle mile infrastructure to predominately rural communities in southeast Minnesota, northern Iowa, southwest and northwest Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration of this application to build middle mile infrastructure in the Midwest. This grant funding would be an investment in the broadband needs in my State and I urge you to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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