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United States Senate

September 23, 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

Re: Enabling Middle Mile Grant Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

I writing in support for the application made by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) for their Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project under the Enabling Middle Mile Grant Program. This project will bring much-needed middle mile infrastructure to predominately rural communities in Southeast Minnesota, Northern Iowa, Southwest Wisconsin, and Northwest Wisconsin.

DPC's Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project will significantly encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure and connect unserved and underserved areas, offer equal opportunity for internet service providers to connect to last mile infrastructure in a cost-effective manner, and ultimately promote economic prosperity and close the digital divide. DPC is committed to having a positive impact in Southeast Minnesota 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.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration for Dairyland Power Cooperative's request for Enabling Middle Mile Grant funding. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Bree Maki at 651-788-6284 or by email at Bree_Maki@smith.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Smith

Tina Smith

United States Senator