Minnesota Rural Electric Association
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September 15, 2022

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

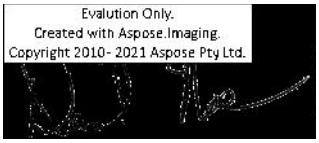
Dear National Telecommunication and Information Administration,

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.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association is a statewide member association representing the 50 rural electric cooperatives that are responsible for the generation and distribution of over 15 million MWh of electricity to approximately 1.7 million Minnesotans across about 85% of the state's land mass. Our members operate the largest power distribution system in the state, operating in almost every county of the state.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association 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 greater Minnesota 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,



Darrick Moe
President & CEO
Minnesota Rural Electric Association