9/14/2022

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.

Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is a regional Community Area Network (CAN) made up of 40 institutions that was formed in 1999. CINC is committed to "Broadband Servicing the Public Interest". Through a coordinated regional communication infrastructure, CINC works to position the Chippewa Valley to be innovative, competitive and economically viable for present and future generations.

CINC 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 west central Wisconsin and surrounding areas by implementing middle mile infrastructure that will increase competition among local internet service providers, and subsequently lower costs while offering increased options for citizens. Additionally, faster and more reliable infrastructure can help to provide CINC members with connectivity opportunities to connect key public safety communication equipment and locations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bauer
Chairperson
Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium
715-726-7891