BARRON COUNTY

Government Center Room 2130
335 East Monroe Avenue
Barron, WI 54812
Phone: 715-537-6841

September 13, 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.

Barron County is a rural County located in northwest Wisconsin approximately 110 miles east, northeast of the Minneapolis, St.-Paul metropolitan area. Within Barron County we also have the operations of Barron Electric Cooperative. Barron County's support for this grant application comes from three distinct perspectives, our support for Dairyland Power Cooperative, and their need to increase their operational capacities. Our support for Barron Electric Cooperative, located in the City of Barron, and finally the fact that the Barron County Board of Supervisors fully supports and wants all of our citizens to have access to high-quality and high-speed internet throughout Barron County. To that end then it is our understanding and further support for this grant application so-that Dairyland Power may adequately increase their data transmission needs along with a more secure data transmission system and finally to provide band-width to the local telecommunication companies.

Barron County 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 Barron County 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.

Sincerely,

Louie Okey
County Board Chair

Dave Armstrong
Barron County Economic Development Director

Jeff French
County Administrator

Cc: Mr. Kurt Baumgarten, Telecommunications Engineer Dairyland Power Cooperative
Mr. Aaron Torud, General Manager, Barron Electric Cooperative

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