September 1, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

CloudWyze is a North Carolina company at the leading edge of high-speed internet solutions. We take pride in empowering communities through technology by providing innovative solutions and building strong relationships to serve a diverse customer base – both consumer and business. Partners like MCNC have enabled us to fulfill our mission of providing access and affordability to those we serve.

MCNC's proposed project would add nearly 200 new miles of high-speed broadband infrastructure and would represent a significant investment for unserved and underserved parts of eastern and central North Carolina. Should MCNC be awarded the requested funds to build a middle mile network into these areas, it would provide an opportunity for CloudWyze to deploy last mile solutions thereby extending much needed broadband to communities within Lee, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow Counties in Eastern North Carolina, and Forsyth, Davidson, Rowan and Stanly Counties in Central North Carolina. Furthermore, such investment and resultant infrastructure by MCNC could help CloudWyze and other providers solve an ongoing challenge – providing access to service at an affordable rate – to residents and community anchor institutions.

MCNC has long played a vital role in reducing the cost of middle mile services in North Carolina by providing access to infrastructure at reasonable rates on a neutral basis. As end-users across the state today seek access to greater broadband capacity, CloudWyze is confident that if funded MCNC's proposed route would enable local providers to meet that demand at affordable rates.

1838 Sir Tyler Drive, Suite 200
Wilmington | NC | 28405

www.cloudwyze.com

For 40 years MCNC has been the backbone of high-speed Internet service in North Carolina through its North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), which currently provides access to more than two million K-20 students across the state. With this new technology infrastructure, MCNC is seeking to expand its network and support the state's rural economy, strengthen the military installations and bolster the tourism industry vital to these regions of the state.

We applaud MCNC's shared commitment to the underserved/unserved communities along this route and for their ongoing support of the State's comprehensive broadband plan.

We believe these communities will be best served by supporting MCNC's efforts to secure the additional funding needed via the Middle Mile Grant program. As such, CloudWyze fully supports MCNC's application for Middle Mile Grant funding to continue their pursuit for digital equity and inclusion across North Carolina.

As always should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Shaun Olsen
President | CEO

1838 Sir Tyler Drive, Suite 200
Wilmington | NC | 28405

w w w . c l o u d w y z e . c o m

DocuSign Envelope ID: 6AA86771-661C-4C70-86A0-3FC466F1D8E8

CONTERRA NETWORKS
Fiber Driven. People Powered.

August 8, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

For nearly three decades, Conterra Networks has been designing, building, and operating new-technology-based telecom networks in the education, healthcare, enterprise, and carrier industries across North Carolina and across the United States.

MCNC's proposed Jacksonville to Sanford route would add more than 100 new miles of high-speed broadband infrastructure and would represent a significant investment for unserved and underserved parts of eastern North Carolina. Should MCNC be awarded the requested funds to build a middle mile network into these areas, it would provide an opportunity for Conterra, as well as other competitive providers, to deploy last mile solutions thereby extending much needed broadband to communities within Lee, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow Counties in North Carolina. Furthermore, such investment and resultant infrastructure by MCNC could help Conterra and other providers solve an ongoing challenge – providing access to service at an affordable rate.

For 40 years MCNC has been the backbone of high-speed Internet service in North Carolina through its North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), which currently provides access to more than two million K-20 students across the state. With this new technology infrastructure, MCNC is seeking to expand its network and support the state's rural economy, strengthen the military installations and bolster the tourism industry vital to these regions of the state.
We applaud MCNC's commitment to the underserved/unserved communities along this route and for their ongoing support of the State's comprehensive broadband plan.

We believe these communities will be best served by supporting MCNC's efforts to secure the additional funding needed via the Middle Mile Grant program. As such, Conterra fully supports MCNC's application for Middle Mile Grant funding to continue their pursuit for digital equity and inclusion across North Carolina.

As always should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
5B5050A3C5FE448...
Mike Tompkins
EVP & COO

Davis H. Brinson
County Manager/Clerk to the Board

George H. Futrelle
Assistant County Manager

J. Timothy Wilson
County Attorney

Board of County Commissioners
Elwood Garner – District 1
Dexter B. Edwards, Chair – District 2
Kennedy Thompson, Vice Chair – District 3
Jesse L. Dowe, III., – District 4
Wayne E. Branch – District 5

224 Seminary Street; Post Office Box 910
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349
Office: (910) 296-2100 Fax: (910) 296-2107

July 21, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Asst. Secretary for Communications and Information &
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

As the County Manager in Duplin County, a rural eastern North Carolina community, I am writing to support the application of MCNC (www.mcnc.org) for funding through the new Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

MCNC for years has been the backbone of high-speed internet service in North Carolina through its North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) and currently provides this service to more than two million K-20 students across our state.

MCNC has a history of using federal funds to benefit North Carolina. In 2012, it was awarded a BTOP grant and used it to expand NCREN by 4,500 miles of connectivity and support community anchor institutions in all 100 counties.

MCNC's proposed Jacksonville to Sanford route would add more than 100 new miles of high-speed broadband along the I-40 corridor and would be a significant investment for unserved and underserved parts of eastern North Carolina. It would help strengthen the state's rural economy given the large number of farms in the region and help related businesses along

the route including a Butterball Turkey processing plant, Smithfield Foods facilities, House of Raeford chicken processing plants and a large winery all here in Duplin County. On a regional level, it would also benefit our military installations and tourism industry which are vital segments of our local economy.

The route would also benefit educational institutions from Onslow County (Jacksonville) all the way to Lee County (Sanford). These include many K-12 schools and community colleges.

Thank you for your consideration of MCNC's important application.

Sincerely,

Davis H. Brinson

Davis H. Brinson
Duplin County Manager

Cc: Secretary Gina Raimondo, Sarah Bleau, Tracy Doaks

DocuSign Envelope ID: 5E2CCF9A-336B-4E39-B376-E9CADC72769C

NCDIT NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Roy Cooper
Governor

James A. Weaver
Secretary and State Chief Information Officer

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

September 21, 2022

Assistant Secretary Davidson:

The N.C. Department of Information Technology's Division of Broadband and Digital Equity is responsible for implementing Governor Roy Cooper's plan to close the digital divide in North Carolina by investing in high-speed internet infrastructure deployment, addressing the high costs of internet subscriptions, and helping North Carolinians get the devices and skills needed to participate in the modern economy.

The Division is administering more than $1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding to build digital equity in North Carolina and has applied for significant additional resources through the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and Digital Equity Planning Grant Program. Additionally, the Division is coordinating with North Carolina's applicants for NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program to ensure that applicants share infrastructure location data and submit projects consistent with Governor Cooper's plan to close the digital divide.

I am pleased to report that MCNC seeks NTIA Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program funding to expand and extend the N.C. Research and Education Network (NCREN) across two separate project segments: from Sanford to Jacksonville, and from Albemarle to Winston-Salem. The NCREN now spans nearly 4,500 miles, thanks in part to MCNC's prior successful participation in NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. This project will address critical gaps in the state's open access middle mile infrastructure and enhance resiliency across the state while boosting the Division's ongoing efforts to address urgent last-mile deficiencies through the BEAD program. The project will address all three of our major priorities for digital equity – access, affordability, and digital literacy – by providing affordable, nondiscriminatory, highly secure access to community anchor institutions and last-mile providers across the state. MCNC's work also continues to support the state's digital inclusion planning processes for county and local governments.

I am proud to support MCNC's middle mile funding proposal and appreciate your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if the Division can provide any assistance. Thank you for your work to provide Internet For All and for your strong support for state broadband and digital equity missions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Nathaniel S. Denny
7808BF9EB6564CB...

Nathaniel S. Denny
Deputy Secretary of Broadband and Digital Equity
N.C. Department of Information Technology

NC Electric Cooperatives
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

August 1, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Honorable Assistant Secretary Davidson,

North Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives are driven by service and inspired by innovation as we seek to build a brighter future for 2.5 million North Carolinians. North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) is one of the largest generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the nation, providing reliable, affordable, increasingly sustainable electricity to our 25 member cooperatives and their 2.5 million member-owners. NCEMC owns power generation assets, purchases electricity through contracts, identifies innovative energy projects, and coordinates transmission resources for our member cooperatives.

For the reasons set out herein, **NCEMC fully supports MCNC's application to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program for grant funding to continue MCNC's advancement of digital equity and inclusion across North Carolina.**

As the electric sector transitions to incorporate more carbon-reducing distributed energy resources – including but not limited to solar, batteries and "smart" energy-saving devices – our operations are becoming increasingly reliant on the system connectivity provided by backbone and middle mile fiber. This same backbone and middle mile fiber is also foundational for extending retail broadband services into the rural communities cooperatives serve, enabling our "end-of-the-line" member-owners to access healthcare, education and commercial opportunities that build a brighter future.

In North Carolina, MCNC has an established record of success and has been a key factor in enabling our pursuit of a brighter future for our member-owners by facilitating cooperative use of MCNC's existing backbone fiber constructed through prior NTIA grant funding, including providing IP backhaul services delivered over these same fiber facilities.

3400 Sumner Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27616 • 919-872-0800 • Fax: 919-645-3410

Per its application, MCNC is proposing to extend additional middle mile fiber into the service territories of five electric cooperatives. With continued support from NTIA, we believe MCNC's proposed extension of middle mile fiber will further enable our pursuit of a brighter future for our member-owners. Regarding electric system operations, the proposed extension will create the opportunity for Central EMC, Four County EMC, Jones-Onslow EMC, South River EMC, and Tri-County EMC, to purchase dark fiber, internet backhaul, and other middle-mile services from MCNC. Just as importantly to our member-owners, the proposed extension creates a fiber foundation from which community partners will be able to extend affordable broadband services to the homes and businesses of currently unserved and underserved community members in Duplin, Harnett, Lee, Onslow, and Sampson counties.

For these reasons, NCEMC fully supports MCNC's application to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program for grant funding to continue MCNC's advancement of digital equity and inclusion across North Carolina.

As always should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Joe Brannan
Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer

NC RURAL CENTER

August 4, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Letter of Support for MCNC Application for the Middle Mile Grant Program

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

I am writing to express the NC Rural Center's support for MCNC's application to secure grant funding from the Middle Mile Grant program.

MCNC is a nonprofit networking technology problem solver, and has provided an exclusive backbone network for technology solutions, innovation, and advancement across the state of North Carolina. In doing so, for four decades MCNC has been a great steward of government funding, including the successful completion of the $144 million Golden LEAF Rural Broadband Initiative through the NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). BTOP expanded critical broadband infrastructure on the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) over 2,600 miles through 82 counties across the state – many of which are rural. Now, NCREN is nearly 4,500 miles, and MCNC continues to provide essential broadband connectivity and technology services to community anchor institutions in all 100 North Carolina counties, including K-20 education, nonprofit health care, government and public safety organizations, as well as a host of State offices and partners. MCNC has demonstrated a laudable commitment to putting North Carolina first.

As the leading rural economic development organization in the state, the NC Rural Center understands the critical importance of accessible, affordable, high-speed broadband in rural communities. We believe MCNC has the ability to leverage federal funds to meet challenges associated with broadband accessibility in rural areas by creating the technology infrastructure necessary to not only address challenges related to the adoption, but also affordability of broadband for those in the underserved and unserved communities within Lee, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow counties.

I applaud MCNC's commitment to serving rural North Carolina and ask you to give their application your strongest consideration. I welcome any questions and thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to rural communities.

Sincerely,

Patrick N. Woodie

Patrick Woodie
President

Nelle Hotchkiss
Chair

Patrick N. Woodie
President

919.250.4314
ncruralcenter.org

4021 Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

SENATOR BRENT JACKSON
10TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601
PHONE: (919) 733-5705
EMAIL: BRENT.JACKSON@NCLEG.NET
DISTRICT: DUPLIN, JOHNSTON, & SAMPSON COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET
CO-CHAIRMAN
JOINT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCE
CO-CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE
FINANCE
INSURANCE
REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

July 28, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

As a state senator representing eastern North Carolina. I am writing to support the application of MCNC (www.mcnc.org) for funding through the new Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

MCNC for 40 years has been the backbone of high-speed Internet service in North Carolina through its North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) and currently provides this service to more than 2 million students across our state.

MCNC has a history of using federal funds to benefit North Carolina. In 2012, it was awarded a BTOP grant and used it to expand NCREN by 4,500 miles of connectivity and support community anchor institutions in all 100 counties.

MCNC's proposed Jacksonville to Sanford route would add more than 100 new miles of high-speed broadband along the I-40 corridor and would be a significant investment for unserved and underserved parts of eastern North Carolina. It would help strengthen the state's rural economy given the large number of farms in this region and help related businesses along the route including a Butterball Turkey processing plan, Smithfield Pork facilities, and a large vineyard/winery in Duplin County. It would benefit the military installations and tourism industry that are of vital importance to the region.

The route would also benefit educational institutions in Onslow County (Jacksonville) all the way to Lee County (Sanford). These include K-12 schools and community colleges.

Thank you for your consideration of MCNC's important application.

Sincerely,

Brent Jackson
North Carolina State Senator, District 10
Duplin, Johnston, and Sampson Counties

ROANOKE CONNECT™

July 5, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Roanoke Connect Holdings, LLC (Roanoke Connect), is an Internet Service Provider in northeastern North Carolina. Roanoke Connect fully supports MCNC's application for Middle Mile Grant funding to continue their pursuit for digital equity and inclusion across North Carolina. Should MCNC be awarded these needed funds to build out into these areas, Roanoke Connect is highly interested in purchasing dark fiber, internet backhaul and other middle-mile services from MCNC in serving residential and other internet consumers in the underserved and unserved communities within Lee, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow Counties in North Carolina.

Roanoke Connect is a subsidiary of Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation (Roanoke EMC), an electric membership cooperative that has been in business for over 80 years serving more than 14,500member-owners in the North Carolina counties of Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, and Perquimans. Since 2016, Roanoke Connect has been offering Internet Broadband services to the members of the Roanoke EMC. MCNC has been a key factor in enabling our success by facilitating the use of backbone fiber constructed through prior NTIA grant funding, as well as providing IP backhaul services delivered over these same fiber facilities.

The success of Roanoke Connect's Broadband efforts and MCNC's continued support has allowed Roanoke Connect to investigate the potential to bring their Broadband expertise to other electric cooperatives in the state. In particular, the route being proposed by MCNC extends middle mile fiber into the service territories of seven electric membership cooperatives. Roanoke Connect has the ability to work with these cooperatives to extend broadband to their member owners by utilizing this proposed route.

The electric membership cooperatives interested in the Broadband service from Roanoke Connect include Central EMC, South River EMC, Tri-County EMC, Four County EMC, and Jones-Onslow EMC. With the help of additional middle-mile fiber from MCNC and BEAD investments by the state of North Carolina into these areas, Roanoke Connect can bring affordable Broadband services to thousands more users.

The underserved/unserved communities within Lee, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow counties for Roanoke Connect will be best served by supporting MCNC's efforts to secure the additional funding needed via the Middle Mile Grant program.

As always should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Bo Coughlin
Chief Operating Officer

roanokeconnect.com // **P** 252.209.2236 // **TF** 1.800.433.2236
518 NC 561 W Aulander, NC 27805 // P.O. Drawer 1326 Ahoskie, NC 27910

NORTH CAROLINA'S
SAMPSON COUNTY
OFFICE *of the* COUNTY MANAGER

August 1, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

Sampson County supports MCNC's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program grant application. MCNC's proposed route will add more than one hundred miles of high-speed broadband along the I-40 corridor, of which 34 miles will be within Sampson County. Fiber along the I-40 corridor will bring much need technology infrastructure to unserved and underserved parts of the region. Extending from Lee to Onslow County, this project will benefit education, healthcare, defense, tourism, and other sectors, and will provide significant opportunities for economic development and job creation along, and around, the proposed route.

We are grateful that MCNC has plans to invest in the region and Sampson County. We believe the grant will help lessen the digital divide that continues to persist in rural counties such as ours. MCNC's efforts to seek grant support for broadband access is commendable and much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edwin W. Causey
County Manager

406 County Complex Road, Building C | Clinton, North Carolina 28328
(910) 592-6308 | www.sampsonnc.com

STANLY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

July 26, 2022

Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and
NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

I am writing to support the application of MCNC (www.mcnc.org) for funding through the new Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

MCNC for 40 years has been the backbone of high-speed Internet service in North Carolina through its North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) and currently provides this service to more than two million K-20 students across our state.

MCNC has a history of using federal funds to benefit North Carolina. In 2011, it was awarded a BTOP grant and used it to expand NCREN by 4,500 miles of connectivity and support community anchor institutions in all 100 counties. MCNC has done a very good job of leveraging this middle mile network for the benefit of communities, educational institutions and private sector job creation. Additional expansion of the middle mile backbone would only serve to enhance broadband service in another area of the state.

MCNC's proposed Winston-Salem to Albemarle route would add nearly 70 new miles of high-speed broadband along Interstate 285 and US Highway 52 and would be a significant investment for unserved and underserved parts of the central piedmont area of North Carolina. It would benefit a number of industries and community efforts of vital importance to the region.

The route would also benefit educational institutions in Forsyth, Davidson, Rowan and Stanly County. These include K-12 schools and community colleges.

Thank you for your consideration of MCNC's important application.

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Lucas
County Manager

cc: Secretary Gina Raimondo, Sarah Bleau, Tracy Doaks