

Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program

Resident Letter of Support for Red River Communications

Dear Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development:

My name is _____ and I am writing this letter to support Red River Communications' Border-to-Border Broadband Grant application. We, the rural residents of Wilkin County, desperately need affordable access to high-speed fiber broadband services. This lack of service puts our community at a disadvantage compared to other regional communities. A lack of sufficient bandwidth has limited our access to educational and economic development programs, telemedicine, and staying in touch with distant family and friends.

Over the last few years, our rural community has experienced an increased need to access critical services that are only accessible with a high-speed broadband connection.

I have personally experienced the struggle to obtain a reliable internet connection. I, along with my neighbors, cannot reliably stream video for healthcare services, attend classes for distance learning for all levels of students, and attend virtual meetings for everything from school board meetings to church services.

Another considerable need for our community is support for a virtual workforce. I know many of my neighbors who connect to their employer's corporate networks, attend virtual meetings, and have taken advantage of job opportunities that they may have otherwise never considered. A reliable, fast internet connection makes all this possible.

Other economic advantages include:

- Keeping our rural residents from moving to urban areas.
- Providing farmers access to high-tech farming and agriculture technologies.
- Improving emergency response facilities.

Fiber broadband internet will also help our community attract new employers boosting out overall economy.

As a resident, I support this project that will help provide tools to address our area's health, education, and safety issues.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature Phone Date

Physical Address City, State, Zip Email