

Dear North Dakota Information and Technology Department:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . As an ag producer in rural Richland County, North Dakota, I am pleased to support the ND Broadband Grant Program application by Red River Communications because our rural community is in desperate need of affordable access to high-speed fiber broadband services.

High-speed Internet connectivity is an essential component of modern agriculture, as farmers and other businesses supporting our operations rely on broadband to remain competitive and operate efficiently. The technology, digital tools, and data now available to farmers are astounding, and the lack of sufficient bandwidth in rural Richland County has limited our ability to utilize modern farming practices fully. Below are a few ways fiber broadband access can help me improve and grow my business.

- **Cloud-based systems** – All major agriculture equipment manufacturers rely on cloud-based software and telematics systems. This equipment is often useless without the software updates necessary to function. Also, the data and maps produced from these systems need to transfer back to the cloud to allow me to make informed decisions on my farming practices.
- **Implement the latest precision agriculture tools** - Precision agriculture is a farming method that uses the global navigation satellite system (GNSS), sensors on the ground, and drones in the air to study individual farm fields. With these tools, my farming operation can fine-tune our approaches to planting, harvesting, and maintaining crops to save us time and money and, most importantly, improve our crop yields.
- **Protect natural resources** - As a farmer, I am a land steward. I take my job of conservation of natural resources very seriously. With access to the latest in farming technology, I can work to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and improve weed management.

As an ag producer in rural Richland County, North Dakota, I fully support Red River Communications' project. I believe that fiber internet is the solution that will sustain my farming operation for generations to come.

Other comments:

Sincerely,

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Name Phone Date

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Physical Address City State Zip Code