

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN: Your County Finance Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Broadband Internet Task Force’s studies have demonstrated that areas within Berrien County do not meet the FCC’s definition of broadband services (minimum fixed 25 mbps download/3 mbps upload); and

WHEREAS, in early 2022, Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature passed the Building Michigan Together Plan which includes \$250.6 million to expand high-speed internet service to unserved locations in the state through the ROBIN Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may desire to apply for funding from the ROBIN Grant Program to expand Broadband services in Berrien County; and

WHEREAS, there is strong support among Berrien County residents for improved broadband services; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County currently has 6,654 parcels that are unserved by broadband service; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County has earmarked approximately \$4,500,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for investment in broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners supports ISPs’ desires to apply for ROBIN funds to help deploy broadband services to the currently unserved and underserved parcels within the county and will offer the maximum financial commitment of \$4,500,000 allocated at a rate of \$675 per new parcel served as a local contribution for the ROBIN funded broadband deployment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding is subject to an executed Sub-recipient Agreement with each ISP who successfully received ROBIN funding.

Respectfully submitted
Berrien County Finance Committee

Mamie L. Yarbrough, Chairperson

Jon Hinkelman, Vice Chairperson

Rayonte D. Bell

Teri Sue Freehling