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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRAD PAQUETTE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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TO: Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
FROM: Rep. Brad Paquette
DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Applications

To whom it may concern,

I write to you in support of the ROBIN grant application from Berrien County.

We are acutely aware that access to and use of the Internet has become an integral component of everyday life in the 21st century, where digital information has reshaped how individuals participate in nearly every dimension of society. It is imperative that communities leverage broadband network access to eliminate the homework gap and improve education, socioeconomic equality, telemedicine, public safety, agriculture, and economic development to maintain and grow the quality of life for their residents.

The Berrien County Broadband Internet Task Force (BCBIT), along with community leaders, have identified gaps in broadband coverage that the awarding of this grant will address. The result will be improved digital equity throughout the County and a direct economic impact through enhanced entrepreneurship, business development, educational opportunities, and health outcomes.

We respectfully ask for your consideration of this grant application with the intent to increase the attractiveness of the area, encourage existing entities to maintain their presence, and improve broadband and digital equity for all the citizens and guests of Berrien County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BP" with a flourish.

Rep. Brad Paquette
37th District