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TO: Michigan High-Speed Internet Office

FROM: Berrien Township Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Applications

Please accept this letter of support for the ROBIN grant application from (ISP), Berrien County and (local unit of government).

We are acutely aware that access to and use of the Internet has become an integral component of everyday life in the 21st century, which 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, education 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 of the citizens and guests of Berrien County.

Respectfully,

Bryan Bixby
Supervisor, Berrien Township