

Bertrand Charter Township

3835 Buffalo Road
Buchanan, MI 49107

TO: Michigan High-Speed Internet Office

FROM: Steve Hicks-Supervisor Bertrand Charter Township

DATE: 03/04/2023

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

Please accept this letter of support for the ROBIN grant application from Midwest Energy Cooperative (MEC), Berrien County and Bertrand Charter Township.

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 of the citizens and guests of Berrien County.

Sincerely,



Steve Hicks
Supervisor, Bertrand Charter Township