



March 7, 2023

Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity
105 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Subject: Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Application

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the ROBIN grant application from that is being submitted in public-private partnership with Berrien County, Michigan.

Internet accessibility and use is an integral component of everyday life in the 21st century, where digital information has reshaped how individuals participate in nearly every dimension of society. Access long ago went from a luxury to a business and household necessity. It is imperative that communities leverage broadband network access to support public education, socioeconomic equality, telemedicine, public safety, agriculture, and economic development to maintain and grow the quality of life for all of 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. This is of particular importance for regional employers who want to grow their business and attract new talent here in Southwest Michigan.

For the Palisades Power Plant in Covert Township, Michigan, many of our employees and contractors call Berrien County home and would directly benefit from this investment. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike Mlynarek'.

Mike Mlynarek
Site Vice President
Palisades Power Plant