



**Berrien County  
Broadband  
Internet Task Force**

**TO:** Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI)

**FROM:** Berrien County Broadband Internet Task Force (BCBIT)

**DATE:** March 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Applications – Local Support

We, the Berrien County Internet Task Force (BCBIT) write to you in support of the ROBIN grant applications for Berrien County from submitting Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

BCBIT is an ad-hoc Berrien County Committee established to make high-speed broadband internet services accessible to all County residents. We are dedicated to provide support to the end user consumer, local units of government and ISPs in order to build out the wired broadband infrastructure necessary to provide service to the unserved and underserved addresses in Berrien County. Specific to the ROBIN grant application, if successful, the ROBIN Grants will combine public funding and private sector investment that will improve digital equity in the County, which is a stated goal of MIHI.

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.

BCBIT, along with community leaders, have identified gaps in broadband coverage that the awarding of this grant will address. We have provided County mapping services and connected the interested ISPs with the local units of government to ensure the consumer will receive the most accessible and affordable broadband service through this grant process.

We respectfully ask when considering grant applications that you keep our intended goals of equity, accessibility and affordability in mind when awarding the grant to the successful ISP applicant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teri Freehling", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Teri Freehling

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Curran", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Jim Curran

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rayonte Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Rayonte Bell

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