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March 9, 2023

Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

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

MIHI Office,

Please accept this letter of support for the ROBIN grant applications submitted by Internet Service Providers to further broadband coverage in Berrien County.

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.

From a real estate perspective, there is increasing demand for easy access to broadband and high-speed internet when considering purchasing a home or business in a particular area. With the changing dynamic of the workforce, and the ability to work remotely, many home buyers solely focus on areas that provide quality internet service. If approved, these grant funds would raise Berrien County's profile for prospective home buyers and for potential new businesses opportunities, while raising the bar for those who already live, work, and play within our beautiful county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Jeffries".

Alan Jeffries
Chief Executive Officer
Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS®



The Voice of Real Estate in Southwestern Michigan

