



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DR. TREVOR A. KUBATZKE

March 12, 2023

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

Dear Michigan High Speed Internet Office:

This letter is in strong support of the application from the Berrien County Internet Task Force (BCBIT) seeking funds for the ROBIN grant program.

Berrien County is a microcosm of the State of Michigan. We have miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, a robust manufacturing sector, we are home to a Fortune 150 company in Whirlpool Corporation and are located in the “heart of the fruit belt,” leading the state in specialty crops. We also have urban areas in Niles and Benton Harbor that are part of the digital divide, and an aging population compared to the rest of the country.

For Berrien County to be competitive, we need access to high-speed internet services. Lake Michigan College, as the leading provider of training, retraining, and higher education in the region, has seen significant growth in the number of students taking on-line classes. That is another reason we must fill the gaps in Internet service, and why we appreciate the work of BCBIT in moving this process forward.

Again, we strongly support the application of BCBIT to address this critical issue. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Trevor Kubatzke
President
Lake Michigan College