



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI
TRIBAL COUNCIL

March 13, 2023

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

Re: ROBIN Grant Support Letter

Dear MIHI Office:

I am writing to voice Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians support of Broadband applications for funding from the Realizing Opportunities with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) to expand fiber-to-the-premise broadband service in Berrien County and New Buffalo Township. Rural Townships need reliable Internet service and the project proposed will help Berrien County and New Buffalo Township achieve goals for economic development, job retention, educational achievement and the overall health and well-being of our residents. For many Township residents, businesses, and agricultural operations the negative impacts of COVID-19 were significantly worsened by poor or no Internet access.

This grant would enable broadband deployment to approximately 4,000 unserved and underserved homes and business in rural Berrien County including in New Buffalo Township. This will allow residents and businesses to access the fastest and most reliable speeds available and provide limitless opportunities.

I ask that the MiHi Office give strong consideration to approving the funding requested to further expand broadband to unserved areas of Berrien County and New Buffalo Township.
Sincerely,

Rebecca Richards
Tribal Council Chairwoman
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians