



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD

100 South 10th Street
Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864

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Mrs. Suzy Tate, County Administrator

April 10, 2018
Director, Broadband Division
Rural Utilities Service
STOP 1599, Room 2868
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2868

Mr. Steve Draege
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Mr. James Malone
Vice Chairman
District #13

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Ms. Joyce Damron
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Mr. Wayne Hicks
District #12

Dear Director,

The Jefferson County Board would like to express their full support of the Community Connect grant application for Wabash Independent Networks DBA Wabash Communications to provide broadband services to the Proposed Funding Service Area (PFSA) in the Farrington Twp., a portion of Field Twp., and a portion of Mt. Vernon Twp. in the North East corner of Jefferson County.

We are confident in Wabash's capabilities of providing and enhancing broadband service for this geographical area. Without this grant to assist in this process, residents in the proposed funded service area will be left un-served, without satisfactory broadband service. With a fiber infrastructure in place to every resident in the proposed funded service area, the future opportunities for distant learning, working from home and any new applications which require sufficient broadband connectivity to execute will be in place, allowing for economic growth far into the future. Funding Wabash's community connect project will also allow for enhanced healthcare and improved public safety assistance.

With Wabash's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at competitive speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, we are confident in Wabash's capabilities of enhancing broadband service for those residents in proposed funding service area.

We strongly urge the RUS to fund this grant application, not only sustaining the future of broadband services in the Farrington, portion of Field Township and portion of Mt. Vernon Township in Rural Jefferson County proposed service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,



Steve Draege, Chairman

Entity: Jefferson County Board

Address: 100 S. 10th St., Room 106

City, State, Zip Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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