

Big Stone Area Growth (BSAG)

706 2nd Street SE, Ortonville, MN 56278 • Phone: 320/839-6155

Date: October 13, 2014

Re: Broadband Opportunity

We are looking for help on a Broadband opportunity which unfortunately requires an immediate response. Attached you will find a sample support letter; however, please feel free to update this letter to reflect your personal support. First, a brief summary of the proposed fiber-to-premise project:

On May 20, 2014, Governor Mark Dayton signed into law the new Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program. This \$20 million grant program will be used to fund the build out of infrastructure to promote the expansion of broadband service to areas of the state that are unserved or underserved. The application for these funds was released September 24th.

Federated Telephone has approached Big Stone County asking to partner on the State grant opportunity to expand their network to rural areas of Big Stone County, which mainly includes everything west of Highway 75 except for the cities of Ortonville, Clinton and Graceville. This area does include the Lake Road. Federated has asked if Big Stone County would extend a loan for this project if Federated were to be awarded grant funds from the State.

This is an exciting opportunity for Big Stone County. Even if you or your business will not receive a direct benefit from an extended broadband network, the County as a whole will benefit in many ways. Timeliness is imperative for the returns of these letters as the grant application is due back to the State no later than October 28th so we are asking that you submit your support to our office on or before October 24th. The letters will be attached to the Grant Application submitted by Federated Telephone. So although your letter will be addressed to the Office of Broadband Development, please return your letters to our office for inclusion.

Thank you!

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