
Organization

Address

City, State, ZIP

Date

Todd County Board of Commissioners
347 Central Avenue, Suite 5
Long Prairie, MN 56347

RE: Letter of support to establish reciprocal broadband services county wide, known as the Todd County Fiberband Initiative

To the Todd County Board of Commissioners:

The world's cultural and economic environment is becoming increasingly more knowledge-driven and information-based, and Todd County citizens, businesses, and agriculture need access to that information. Research indicates that introduction of broadband in to rural areas increases the rate of job growth and income of rural areas and that the presence of broadband in a community is the greatest indicator of future economic success.

We believe that broadband access has evolved from a luxury and entertainment item to an essential infrastructure for business, health care, education and government and the speeds needed to maintain local and global competitiveness are greater than telecommunication companies serving Todd County are willing to provide. Demand exists for broadband access, but without a concerted and unified effort being made to obtain appropriate access for the citizens of Todd County, it is likely that demand will not be met.

We want Todd County citizens to maintain the highest quality of life and its businesses to be as competitive and productive as possible. The highest speed, highest capacity broadband, and other telecommunications services are critical for maintaining a healthy and competitive community. High speed, high capacity access to telecommunications services should be thought of as an essential public service that should be available to all citizens of Todd County, similar to the way the street and highway system is available to all citizens.

It seems as though private sector providers are currently unwilling and/or unable to provide the highest speed, highest capacity access to broadband services to the citizens and businesses of Todd County via last mile fiber, wireless or other means.

We support any action to establish by any means legally available, a municipal telecommunications utility system county wide that provides the highest speed (reciprocal) speed internet, highest capacity access to

broadband services which will increase the potential to bring reasonably priced, stable and accessible quality broadband access to all places in Todd County.

We strongly support the goals established by the Todd County Board of Commissioners that:

- a. All places within the city limits of a city within Todd County shall have fiber to the premise broadband services at a reasonable price no later than 2014, and;
- b. All places within Todd County, regardless of location, shall be able to access quality broadband services at speeds of no less than 20 mbps download, and 10 mbps upload by no later than 2016.

Please accept this letter as our commitment of support and resolution to your efforts to bring high speed internet access to all places in Todd County, and to the Todd County Fiberband Initiative.

Sincerely,

Name/Title

Date