*<date>*

RE: Letter of Support for Broadband Funding in Redwood County

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support to the Redwood County Economic Development Authority (EDA) in partnership with Nuvera, the internet service provider to pursue application for broadband funding. We strongly encourage you to consider the application for a fiber optic network designed to deliver reliable, high-speed internet connection to residents and businesses in Redwood County.

High-speed internet is no longer a luxury, rather it is a necessary utility. Broadband access in rural areas is linked to increased job opportunities and population growth, higher rates of new business development, higher home values, and lower unemployment rates. Much of Redwood County is deemed unserved or underserved, with less than 100/20 Mbps, delivered by infrastructure which does not meet the needs of residents and businesses. The long-term benefits of broadband infrastructure are significant and critical to the vitality of any community. The time is now to invest in building a futureproof network and expand broadband access in Redwood County.

*<please consider adding comments about you, and/or your family situation. Items to consider including, is the number of years you’ve resided in the County, and where, the number of people in your household, how many devices are used in your home. List your current internet speed (you can get this by connecting to your home wifi system on a device and* [*click this link*](https://fast.com/)*). Do you have or have you had tele-health appointments, students e-learning? Do you stream? Does anyone work remotely? Describe how the lack of broadband impacts you, and/or your family, include real-life examples of how broadband limitations have created burdens, inequities, or even an inability to engage in day-to-day activities. If you need help drafting this section contact Briana Mumme, Redwood County Economic Developer at* *briana\_m@co.redwood.mn.us* *or (507) 637-1122.>*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to support the Redwood County EDA as they pursue available broadband funding. We enthusiastically support their efforts, and are available to answer any questions concerning our support of the grant.

Sincerely,

*<Your name and contact information>*