*Please place this letter on your organizations letterhead*

*<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 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 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 how the lack of broadband impacts your organization, customers, students, families, industry, remote work, workforce, etc. This is a great place to include a real-life example(s) of how broadband limitations have created burdens, inequities, or engage in day-to-day activities/operations. If you are an organization which offers community programs, how will broadband impact or be incorporated into programming? How will improved broadband speeds and coverage enable Redwood County to become and/or remain competitively viable? Describe how COVID changed how your organization provided goods or services? If you need help drafting this section contact Briana Mumme, Redwood County Economic Development Coordinator 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,

*<please list the names and titles of all leadership, elected officials, and/or staff, and contact information>*