

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515–2302

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, INVESTIGATIONS & REGULATIONS

April 29, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$4,280,000 in community project funding for the Goodhue County Broadband Expansion project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Goodhue County, 509 W 5th St, Red Wing, MN 55066.

Funding would allow Goodhue County to build out broadband to rural areas that continue to be unserved or underserved due to geography, remoteness, low population density, or other factors that have slowed the availability of fiber or that prevent easy access to fixed wireless antennae. Completion of these fiber-based projects would provide highspeed Internet to more than 500 homes and more than 1,100 individuals, as well as many farms and businesses. The Fixed Wireless portion of the project could potentially provide increased bandwidth to nearly 800 homes, 1,800 individuals, more than 1,300 farms and agricultural parcels, and as many as 60 schools, churches, public safety, and other municipal/public service locations.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because expanding affordable, highcapacity broadband to Americans living in rural areas is essential in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This project would provide the essential connection to employment, educational opportunities, accessible healthcare, public safety, retail and commerce in rural Goodhue County.

In accordance with House Rules, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

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Angie Craig Member of Congress