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September 3, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary, Communications & Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Remaley,

I have been alerted that the **Logan and Mingo County Commissions**, with assistance provided by Region 2 Planning and Development Council, have submitted a grant application to the **U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration**, under the **Broadband Infrastructure Program**.

Please accept this letter as a record of my support for the Logan and Mingo County Commissions, their partners, and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity would be used to support the development of the Logan and Mingo Counties Fiber to the Premises Project.

Specifically, the broadband project will leverage a significant investment by Appalachian Electric Power (AEP), and their plans to construct 400 miles of middle-mile fiber to modernize their grid for electrical services, by constructing a last-mile fiber network to more than 11,200 unserved residences, businesses and community institutions across the two counties. Additionally, the project would construct an additional 83 miles of fiber extension to reach another 1,800 unserved residents that are outside AEP's middle-mile path. These services will assist with the access to and delivery of healthcare and education, and will be a tremendous benefit to economic and workforce development and tourism efforts within the two county footprint.

I greatly appreciate your noting my strong interest and support of this application and providing it a fair and full review. I'm proud to lend my support to this project and others like it that seek to enhance community infrastructure and improve the lives of West Virginians. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Thorn in my Charleston office at 304-342-5855. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III