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June 19, 2019

Joel C. Baxley  
Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development  
USDA  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1590

Dear Mr. Baxley:

I am writing on behalf of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors to support Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) application for the Rural e-Connectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect) Loan and Grant opportunity through USDA Rural Development. CVEC's proposed installation of fiber optic cable will allow the residents of Goochland County to have unprecedented access to reliable, high-speed internet and to take advantages of technology to improve educational and business opportunities.

CVEC serves 802 meters in Goochland County from the Shannon Hill and Cartersville substations. They chose the specific geographic area for the loan and grant opportunity due to the very large number of members who are unserved by high-speed broadband.

Securing the ReConnect Loan and Grant opportunity will help offset the cost of building the fiber optic system in our area, thus lowering the cost to serve in this sparsely populated area. CVEC is working to help overcome the disadvantages of living in a rural community by providing access to high-speed internet. This project will help level the playing field for our citizens, businesses, and agricultural community with expanded educational opportunities, business expansion & work from home opportunities, and increased access to medical assistance and information.

High-speed broadband is no longer "optional infrastructure", it is a critical component for any successful community and the sustainable future of rural localities. Access to high-speed internet will positively impact our county, businesses, and residents. I appreciate your consideration and the opportunity to voice our support for CVEC's application for the ReConnect Loan and Grant opportunity.

Respectfully,

Manuel Alvarez, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Supervisors