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RESOLUTION #

Resolution Authorizing Sauk County Administration to execute an endorsement letter in support of Connect Holding II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed's (Brightspeed) Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) grant funding application to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

Resolution offered by the Economic Development Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Sauk County, Wisconsin:

BACKGROUND: Sauk County recognizes that broadband connectivity and reliability is critical infrastructure for the entire county to participate in the full benefits of our society and economy, including access to telemedicine, education and economic opportunities. The federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program was established to provide significant funding to expand high-speed, reliable and affordable internet access to all Americans regardless of their geographic location. The availability of the Wisconsin PSC's \$1,055,823,573.71 BEAD funding is crucial for supporting infrastructure projects that will enhance connectivity for households and businesses in Sauk County and beyond.

In 2023-2024, the Economic Development Committee, working collaboratively with the PSC conducted a countywide survey of broadband needs and issues and found 963 unserved and underserved households and businesses in Sauk County. The Economic Development Committee is committed to bridging this digital divide by endorsing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who have a proven record of accomplishment in Sauk County and have provided documentation of their ability and desire to build infrastructure to connect all within the county.

WHEREAS Brightspeed is seeking BEAD funding through the Wisconsin PSC for 14 project units (PUs) with 777 broadband service locations (BSLs) in Sauk County.

WHEREAS, Brightspeed has a proven record of accomplishments in Sauk County for making investments in infrastructure improvements and accessibility; and,

WHEREAS, Brightspeed has provided plans for this project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, having met in regular session, to endorse the application of Connect Holding II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed for BEAD funding to support their broadband infrastructure project in Sauk County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Sauk County Board of Supervisors directs its Economic Development Director to draft and provide a letter signed by the Administrator to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and Brightspeed outlining this endorsement and verifying the applicant and geographic location affected, which shall include the minutes from this meeting.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Economic Development Committee, this 20th day of January 2025.

Consent Agenda Item: [X] YES [] NO

Fiscal Impact: [X] None [] Budgeted Expenditure [] Not Budgeted

Vote Required: Majority = X 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed
by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____.

Offered and passage moved by: Economic Development Committee

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Mark "Smooth" Detter, Chair

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Bryant Hazard

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Nathan Johnson

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Peter Kinsman

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Marty Krueger

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Timothy McCumber

_____ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
Robert Prosser

Fiscal Note: No Impact - The BEAD grant does not require the county to provide matching funds.

MIS Note: No Impact