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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

COMMITTEES:
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March 29, 2020

Ms. Bette Brand
Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Brand:

I write in regards to the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation's (GVEDC) application, in partnership with Citynet, for funding through the ReConnect Program. Funding will support the buildout of broadband infrastructure to provide gigabit service to over 900 households in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

Whether it is broadband or highways, infrastructure is vital to the well-being of West Virginians and the communities within which they live. Improving connectivity through the extension and enhancement of broadband infrastructure is particularly important in the 21st century as work, learning, and the delivery of healthcare are often accomplished via the web or other services.

Certain regions of West Virginia, however, lack access to adequate broadband service. Fortunately, thanks to my Capito Connect Plan and the efforts of local, state, and federal leaders, we are making tremendous strides in improving connectivity across the state. Federal initiatives such as the ReConnect Program, which I have championed, are integral to these efforts.

This proposal on the part of the GVEDC promises to use ReConnect funding to extend broadband infrastructure to a particularly rural county in West Virginia. The improvements in service accomplished through this project will redound to the benefit of an estimated 35 businesses, two critical care facilities, and over 20 farms. I hope you will give the GVEDC's application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

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