

Good Afternoon Ways and Means Committee,

I am asking for your support to help fund reliable broadband in our rural areas of Josephine County. Our rural areas are suffering as both our businesses and residents do not have reliable or in some areas even access to broadband. This was a problem prior to COVID. During COVID, this has created a huge issue for our children, those working from home, and those operating businesses in this area. The children living in these service areas had to travel to the nearest library or business parking lot that had adequate Wi-Fi to use the internet to login for school and complete homework. This barrier has left us behind in all areas whether it is continuing education or quality of life.

In order to grow and succeed as a community, we need this essential service. We have reached out to several providers, but due to our location and small amount of households in our rural areas it doesn't pencil out. We need your help to create this infrastructure. With funding we could create a feasibility study for our area, apply for grants, and as a final goal create the infrastructure for reliable broadband in all rural areas of Josephine County. In our eyes, every person should have access to reliable broadband.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Josie Molloy
President & CEO
Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce