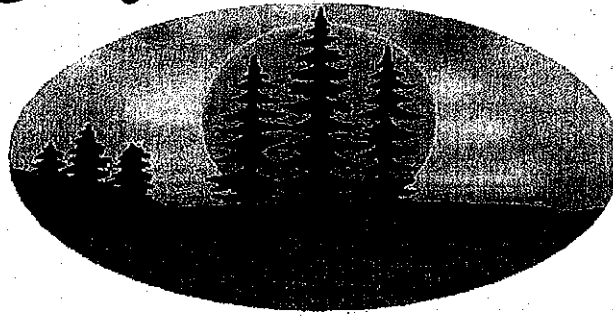


City of Milaca

255 First Street East
Milaca, MN 56353



320-983-3141
320-983-3142 (fax)

October 9, 2012

www.cityofmilaca.org

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support from the City of Milaca for the Mille Lacs County Broadband Community Grant Application.

The goals of this grant and the outcomes of the proposal support the mission statements of the Central Minnesota WIB, *to provide leadership that integrates workforce, education, and economic resources for our communities* and of CMJTS, *to strengthen central Minnesota communities through leadership in workforce excellence*. In our daily work supporting businesses by addressing their need for skilled workers, we understand the importance that broadband plays in the economic success of a region.

Access to broadband and the ability of businesses to implement and use high-speed, interactive websites, social media sites, and other advanced electronic communication systems in Mille Lacs County will increase their visibility and ability to compete in the global economy. In addition, job seekers need strong digital literacy skills in nearly all of today's jobs. They need to be able to access online training - especially important in rural areas where transportation is often a barrier - search for and fill out online job applications, upload resumes, and complete job-related assessments.

Mille Lacs County has traditionally had a higher unemployment rate than the State of Minnesota and the United States, as well as a higher level of poverty. We believe this project will create new opportunities for businesses, including start-up, and business retention, and expansion and will increase the number of qualified workers throughout the county. We strongly encourage you to support this project and enable Mille Lacs County to identify and address the needs of its businesses and job seekers through greater access to and awareness of broadband and improved digital literacy skills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Jerud
Milaca City Manager

Onamia Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

320-532-6701

35465 125th Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359

jvarner@onamia.k12.mn.us

October 10, 2012

Roxy Traxler
County Administrator
Mille Lacs County
635 2nd Street SE
Milaca, MN 56353

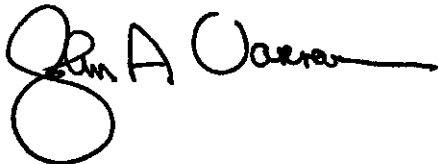
Re: Letter of Support, Blandin Broadband Communities

Dear Ms Traxler:

Please consider this as a letter of support for the broadband initiative in Mille Lacs County. It is in the best interest of the residents of Onamia Public Schools to have the district engaged with any grant or program that will work toward improving broadband access and inclusion within the County.

As always, we look forward to partnering with Mille Lacs County in any endeavor to enrich the lives of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Varner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John A. Varner
Superintendent of Schools

As seen in the
Mille Lacs
County
Times

October 10, 2012

To whom it may concern,

The *Mille Lacs County Times* has been the newspaper for the city of Milaca and Mille Lacs County since 1891. In the last 15 years, having internet connection has become vital to our business. As we look for ways to cut back on our expenses and remain a vital business in the community, we need fast, reliable, and affordable connections to our servers in Coon Rapids in order to publish our papers every week. We deal with many types of broadband connections- from QMOE (Qwest Metro Optical Ethernet) to dedicated T-1 lines to DSL, usually depending on how far out from the metro the office is located. It is also a fact that the further out you get from the metro, the higher the price is for a lower quality service.

For businesses to thrive in outstate MN and more specifically Mille Lacs County, better, more affordable broadband is essential. As we transition our business to the online world for more of our younger readers, better, more affordable broadband is essential to the residents of Mille Lacs County for the ability to load our pages online. Our page files are too large for most dial up systems to handle and we can't scale them back and remain cost efficient.

We support the broadband initiative in Mille Lacs County in their quest to receive the Blandin Foundation Broadband Community Grant.

Sincerely,

Jeff Andres

ECM North Regional General Manager



Central Minnesota

Joint Powers Board

Mission: To guarantee the success and viability of the WorkForce Center System in Workforce Service Area 5, provide Workforce Investment Board oversight, preserve local control efforts, and support the Central Minnesota WSA 5 Joint Powers Board Agreements.

October 9, 2012

C.K. Blandin Foundation
Attn: Mary Magnuson
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
memagnuson@blandinfoundation.org

Dear Ms. Magnuson:

Please accept this letter of support from the Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board, the Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board (WIB), and its administrative entity, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS), for the Mille Lacs County Broadband Community Grant Application.

The goals of this grant and the outcomes of the proposal support the mission statements of the Central Minnesota WIB, *"to provide leadership that integrates workforce, education, and economic resources for our communities"* and of CMJTS, *"to strengthen central Minnesota communities through leadership in workforce excellence."* In our daily work supporting businesses by addressing their need for skilled workers, we understand the importance that broadband plays in the economic success of a region.

Access to broadband and the ability of businesses to implement and use high-speed, interactive web sites, social media sites, and other advanced electronic communication systems in Mille Lacs County will increase their visibility and ability to compete in the global economy. In addition, job seekers need strong digital literacy skills in nearly all of today's jobs. They need to be able to access online training—especially important in rural areas where transportation is often a barrier—search for and fill out online job applications, upload résumés, and complete job-related assessments.

We believe this project will create new opportunities for businesses, including start-up, retention, and expansion activities, and will increase the number of qualified workers throughout the county. We encourage you to support this project and enable Mille Lacs

Members

Commissioner Dennis Peterson
Kandiyohi County
Chair

Commissioner Elmer Eichelberg
Wright County
Vice Chair

Commissioner Wally Strand
Meeker County
Secretary

Commissioner Ray Bayerl
McLeod County

Commissioner Doug Carlson
Pine County

Commissioner Frank Courteau
Mille Lacs County

Commissioner Richard Greene
Chisago County

Commissioner Rachel Leonard
Sherburne County

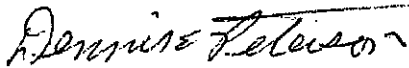
Commissioner Les Nielsen
Kanabec County

Commissioner Ralph Novotny
Renville County

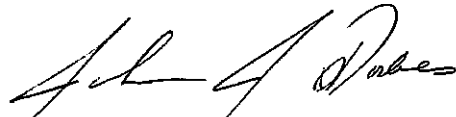
Commissioner Mike Warring
Isanti County

County to identify and address the needs of its businesses and job seekers through greater access to and awareness of broadband and improved digital literacy skills.

Sincerely,



Dennis Peterson, Chair
Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board



John Forbes, Chair
Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board



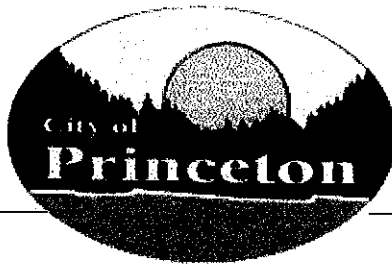
Barbara Chaffee
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc.

Who We Are

The Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board (JPB) mission is "to guarantee the success and viability of the WorkForce Center System in Workforce Service Area 5 (WSA 5), provide Workforce Investment Board oversight, preserve local control efforts, and support the Central Minnesota WSA 5 Joint Powers Board Agreement. The JPB is made up of one county commissioner from each county in WSA 5, which includes Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, and Wright counties.

The Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board, a public-private partnership, provides policy guidance and oversight of all job training and job placement activities in Workforce Service Area 5.

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc., a nonprofit employment and training agency, provides leadership in building a skilled labor force—workers who can do the jobs of today and learn the jobs of tomorrow. Through career counseling, job training, and strong business relationships, we help entry-level to experienced workers and youth to senior citizens, train for and find meaningful employment. CMJTS is a partner in the Minnesota WorkForce Center System.



705 SECOND STREET NORTH
PRINCETON, MINNESOTA 55371
E-MAIL: city@princetonmn.org
www.princetonmn.org

October 4, 2012

Ms. Roxy Traxler
Mille Lacs County Coordinator
635 2nd Street S.E.
Milaca MN 56353-1305

RE: Blandin Community Broadband Program (BCBP)

Dear Ms. Traxler,

The City of Princeton was pleased to find out that Mille Lacs County is applying to become one of ten (10) rural Minnesota communities to get a BCBP grant to help Mille Lacs County define technology goals, gain access to technical assistance and resources to meet those goals, as well as measure the current level of broadband access and use in the county.

Mille Lacs County's poverty level (12.4%) is about 20% higher than the balance of the State of Minnesota (10.6%). Princeton is hopeful that the County's grant application will be approved in order to enhance the ability of the business community to interact with other markets, expand the County's work force, and hopefully reduce that poverty level statistic.

Based on Princeton's involvement in reformulating the County's Comprehensive Plan, Princeton understands Broadband has been identified as a critical component for economic development, education, jobs, training and other facets of the County that need enhancement. The City of Princeton agrees with that assessment.

The County has the full support of the City of Princeton for the grant application. Winning that grant award will certainly enhance both the ability of Mille Lacs County to compete for jobs in the coming years and reduce the poverty level of the County.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MILACA

www.fnbmilaca.com

October 11, 2012

Ms Roxy Traxler
County Administrator
Mille Lacs County
635 2nd St SE
Milaca, MN 56353

RE: Broadband Grant

Dear Ms Traxler,

We at The First National Bank of Milaca were pleased to receive your request for support of the Broadband Grant Project. We have had participation with the Blandin Foundation in the past and we strongly encourage this continual effort to pursue the Community Grant.

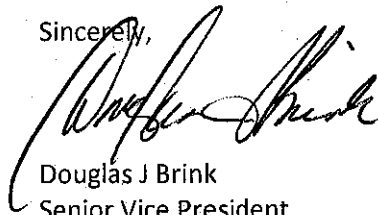
The enhancement of the broadband network is also important to us as our financial institution continues to move in the direction of internet banking, mobile banking, and the expectations of the next generation of loyal customers.

The development of this technology is accelerating at a pace far greater than our rural lifestyles are willing to accept but nevertheless we must keep pace.

We commend you for your efforts in pursuit of this grant. I will share your correspondence with our various committees within our organization and I will suggest that a volunteer or two step up to the plate and assist with the leadership team.

If we can be of further assistance, please keep us informed.

Sincerely,



Douglas J Brink
Senior Vice President

DJB:jb

Community Banking Since 1897



MILACA OFFICE
P.O. BOX 38
MILACA, MN 56353-0038
Ph: (320) 983-3101
Fax: (320) 983-2579

LAKESIDE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 7
ISLE, MN 56342-0007
Ph: (320) 676-3154
Fax: (320) 676-3156

GILMAN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 99
GILMAN, MN 56333-0099
Ph: (320) 387-2233
Fax: (320) 387-2212





Mille Lacs Health System

Marketing

October 12, 2012

I am writing as a communications representative from the Mille Lacs Health System in Onamia. As a critical care access facility, with 6 outlying clinics in medically underserved areas, we support the initiative to improve our county's broadband access and inclusion.

The service speed for not only our internet access here, but at our rural community clinics; and also for patients who can now access our website to gain important health information prior to surgeries, procedures or general health care; is not up to the level of sophistication that other areas of the state have.

Therefore, we are writing to support the Broadband Community Grant Application and hope the success of it will move us into a future that has a higher degree of efficiency for both our facility and our patients.

Mary Rains

Marketing Manager

200 Elm St. North
P.O. Box A
Onamia, Minnesota 56359-0802
www.mlhealth.org

mrains@mlhealth.org
Phone:(320) 532- 2608
Fax: (320) 532-3111

Caring for body, mind and spirit