



**YAMPA
VALLEY
ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION**

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Routt County Commissioners

522 Lincoln Avenue

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Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

June 14, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA), and our wholly owned subsidiary Luminate Broadband, are applying for funding from the State of Colorado's High Cost Support Mechanism Fund to deliver affordable Gigabit broadband services to North Routt County. We are writing to ask for your support, as it is essential to the award of this grant.

As you may know, where fiber services are concerned, North Routt County is a chronically underserved location. The FCC's minimum definition of broadband service is 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. Nearly all of North Routt is living with speeds that fall below this defined minimum. The FCC has determined broadband internet access to be a utility, as necessary to contemporary life as electricity, roads, and water systems. This lack of service affects all citizens of this rural area: businesses are unable to complete necessary transitions, students cannot complete homework, and essential services such as fire and EMS are compromised.

The 2016 Routt County Broadband Plan identified North Routt as a target area and found that: "the economic health and survival of this region depends in large part on the availability and affordability of advanced telecommunication services. Advanced broadband service is no longer a luxury." With funding assistance, YVEA is committed to closing this service gap, and delivering affordable Gigabit broadband to the rural and remote communities in this part of our county.

There are two things you can do to help us receive this funding:

1. Write a letter of support. Attached you will find a draft letter. Feel free to modify as you see fit. Ideally, you can insert some specific examples of the ways in which being underserved compromises community safety and productivity. Completed letters can be sent to mmoore-kemp@yvea.com by COB June 21st.
2. If you live or work in North Routt, perform a speed test from your location. Visit our website at <https://join.luminatebroadband.com/>, enter your address and take the 3 minute survey which includes a speed test.

Thank you for your commitment to our community,

Steve Johnson, General Manager

cc. Tom Sullivan, Routt County Manager