



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 25, 2021

Malinda Matson, Economic Development Representative  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890  
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Ms. Matson:

The County of Lake wishes to express support for the Golden State Finance Authority's Rural California Broadband Strategic Planning application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration under funding made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act. The application outlines an important program of work that would establish "foundational readiness" for broadband investment and deployment across rural California. The proposed work would include the development of comprehensive broadband strategic plans for many of the rural counties in the state, including Lake County that wishes to update their plan in preparation for proposed future infrastructure funding.

High-speed, ubiquitous broadband availability in rural California is often a critical missing component of infrastructure. Its absence precludes residents and businesses in unserved and underserved communities from participating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. High-speed broadband provides essential benefits by allowing increased economic and trade opportunities for small to medium-sized businesses and serves as a required component of infrastructure for all large businesses in 2021. The lack of this essential infrastructure component is limiting existing businesses in rural California from reaching their full potential and eliminating business recruitment activities that could result in much needed jobs and investment for these communities.

The development of broadband strategic plans for rural California counties will provide important benefits for rural economies. First, it will allow communities to strategically invite and direct broadband investment into unserved and under-served areas; second, it will provide the information needed for local elected officials to develop policies that encourage that investment; and third, it will open the door for rural communities to take advantage of federal funding opportunities that require (or strongly encourage) broadband strategic plans to be in place. The broadband strategic plan creates the foundation upon which investment and deployment of broadband infrastructure can and will occur.

Lake County is one of the counties that will benefit from the work proposed in Golden State Finance Authority's grant application. As such, we strongly support this application and request that you give it your highest level of consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

**COUNTY OF LAKE**

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Bruno Sabatier, Chair