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August 21, 2024

Arizona Commerce Authority
Sandip Bhowmich, State Broadband Director
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
100 North 7th Street, Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Allo Fiber's BEAD Funding Application

Dear Director Sandip,

On behalf of Cochise County, Cochise County recommends Allo Fiber's application for funding through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Cochise County solicited proposals from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to partner with the County to bring better broadband to the rural parts of the County. The County received proposals from eight ISPs, interviewed the teams from the top four proposals, and ranked each proposal based on criteria to determine the best ISP to serve the residents of Cochise County. Through an extension review, Allo Fiber has proven to be an exemplary partner in addressing these challenges and is well-suited to expand high-speed internet access in our region.

Allo Fiber has a commendable track record of deploying reliable and high-speed internet services in underserved and unserved areas in Arizona. Their commitment to providing cutting-edge fiber-optic technology aligns perfectly with the goals of the BEAD Program, which seeks to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all residents have access to essential broadband services.

Key reasons for our strong recommendation of Allo Fiber include:

Proven Expertise and Reliability: Allo Fiber has demonstrated its ability to deploy and maintain state-of-the-art fiber-optic networks. Their projects are completed on time and within budget, ensuring minimal disruption to the communities they serve.

Community Engagement and Support: Allo Fiber actively engages with local communities to understand their specific needs and tailors their services accordingly. Their approach fosters trust and ensures that the services provided are both relevant and sustainable.

Economic and Educational Benefits: By expanding high-speed internet access, Allo Fiber will significantly contribute to the economic development of Cochise County. Enhanced broadband infrastructure will support local businesses, attract new investments, and provide our residents with improved educational and telehealth opportunities.

Commitment to Digital Equity: Allo Fiber's initiatives include special programs aimed at making broadband affordable for low-income households. This commitment to digital equity is essential for ensuring that all residents,

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regardless of their socioeconomic status, can benefit from modern Internet services. We are confident that with BEAD funding, Allo Fiber will expand these benefits to a broader area, making a substantial impact on closing the digital divide in Arizona.

We urge you to consider Allo Fiber's application favorably. Their technical expertise, dedication to community engagement, and commitment to digital equity make them an ideal candidate for BEAD funding. Your support will ensure that Cochise County, along with other underserved regions in Arizona, can thrive in the digital age.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann English, Chair
Cochise County Board of Supervisors