



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service
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January 7, 2025

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 Sulphur Springs Valley Cooperative BEAD Funding Application

Dear Director Sandip,

The parties below agree to work collaboratively and support efforts to develop fiber and bring fast, reliable, and symmetrical broadband to the Cochise County constituents, who are also Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative members. SSVEC will design, build, and operate a fiber system that will have the capacity to offer broadband to SSVEC members in Cochise County.

The parties intend to work together in developing a public/private partnership to attract State and Federal dollars through a joint application for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program and other grants to assist in broadband design, construction, and deployment for the benefit of the SSVEC members in Cochise County. Compared to other urban areas, Cochise County needs more access to broadband services. According to the NTIA and FCC maps, many areas are labeled unserved and underserved locations. Without access to adequate broadband, the residents of Cochise County lack quality-of-life benefits such as telemedicine and telehealth services, remote working and educational learning, and other economic opportunities.

Fiber broadband is the superior standard for broadband services, and recently, the Federal government and Arizona State have offered multiple grants and other funding opportunities for fiber broadband deployment.

Cochise County supports SSVEC's application for all grant funding for broadband, specifically the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program recently announced for \$993,112,231.37 allocated for the State of Arizona.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chair
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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