



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5D
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Title of Item: Motion for letter of support- Mille Lacs Energy Broadband project

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested	
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY		<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>

Submitted by: Mark Jeffers	Department: Administration
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Presenter (Name and Title): Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator	Estimated Time Needed: 5 minutes
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Summary of Issue:

The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received a request for a letter of support for Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's grant application to the state Border to Border Grant Program.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Economic Development requests approval of a motion to forward a letter of support.

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Government Center
307 2nd Street NW, Room 316
Aitkin, MN 56431

November 14, 2023

Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
36559 US-169
Aitkin, MN 56431

RE: Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative (MLEC) Letter of Support

Aitkin County would like to express our support for Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Broadband Project for the MN Border-to-Border Round 9 grant program.

MLEC's efforts will provide access to high-speed internet for many of our community members that currently do not have adequate internet access, or no internet access at all. These residents currently struggle with slow internet speed and poor connectivity—some residents have NO access to broadband—which adversely impacts school, work, and healthcare for these families.

This grant opportunity would greatly improve the quality of life for Aitkin County residents. Improving broadband to our residents is one of our highest priorities in Aitkin County. Currently, Aitkin County is 74th out of 87 counties for broadband access to under-served or un-served residents. MLEC has been very aggressive in their commitment to improving broadband to County residents.

Aitkin County strongly supports this project and would appreciate your consideration of MLEC's MN Border-to-Border Round 9 grant application.

Thank you for your consideration,

J Mark Wedel
County Commissioner, Board Chair
Aitkin County