



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us

www.eaglecounty.us

June 6, 2018

Mr. Greg Winkler
Regional Manager – Northern Mountain Region Department of Local Affairs
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

To Whom It May Concern;

The Eagle County Board of County Commissioners expresses its support for the joint Garfield County and Pitkin County application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program. The collaboration between the two counties is the first step in a regional broadband middle-mile backhaul program that is designed to reach underserved areas from the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond into the Colorado River valley, including areas of Eagle County.

We recognize the importance of broadband access for the residents, visitors, and first responders of these counties. We have worked with Pitkin County to identify partnerships along our shared borders and look forward to continued collaboration in areas like the Frying Pan River valley. Eagle County sees this partnership between Pitkin and Garfield counties as a blueprint for future involvement.

The efforts of Garfield and Pitkin allow one consistent middle-mile network and promote future partnerships among neighboring counties. A joint middle-mile network will reduce backhaul costs, assure that equipment works seamlessly regardless of jurisdiction, and reduce market segmentation, all of which are critical in order to expand services to the unserved areas in Eagle County. The collaboration will create shared revenue potential while reducing operating costs, making the combined projects more sustainable and future partnerships more financially feasible.

Funding for a regional network that equips residents, visitors and public safety responders with 21st century communications, while leveraging cross-jurisdictional partnerships, will ensure reliable and redundant connectivity for all residents and visitors as they travel throughout the Western Slope, no matter where they are from or where they are headed. We urge DOLA's EIAF committee to fully fund this joint effort between Garfield and Pitkin counties.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner