

Rural Leavenworth, Inc.
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September 9, 2022

Dear Broadband Grant Review Team,

Rural Leavenworth, Inc. (RLI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization for citizens of rural Leavenworth County, KS. One of the issues we regularly hear about is internet access. The nature of the complaint varies depending on where the citizen lives. RLI is pleased that six grants were submitted by Charter Communications and Midco. The proposed grants will greatly improve internet coverage in rural Leavenworth County.

RLI is not prioritizing the proposed projects nor advocating one over the other. We believe ALL of the proposed areas have a need for improved internet service. Each area has a slightly different reason why the grant should be approved. For example, some of the areas have no options available for wired internet; others have wired internet but the available speed is too low for today's needs; and in some areas of the county, the terrain is such that satellite services are not reliable. Some parts of the county have experienced higher residential growth than other parts. We have encouraged citizens to provide public comment on the proposed grants to share their concerns and/or expectations.

The Charter Communications grants provide the most extensive coverage. There is overlap on the Charter Project 1 and Midco projects. Project financials should be a consideration during the grant review even though the financials were not available to the public.

Leavenworth County is one of the fastest growing counties in Kansas. The recent census shows a 7.42% increase in population. Additional growth is anticipated as a result of the Hills Pet Food plant in Tonganoxie and Panasonic plant near De Soto.

RLI appreciates the work you are doing to expand broadband across Kansas and is hopeful that Leavenworth County will be the recipient of one or more grants. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sherri Grogan
President
Rural Leavenworth, Inc.