

Title **0106** 09/02/2022

by **J D** in **Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Program: Phase Two Public Comment Form** id. 31796358

33132 187th St
Leavenworth , Kansas
66048
United States
jdemaranville8@gmail.com

Original Submission 09/02/2022

Please provide name: **Jacob DeMaranville**

Please provide your address: **33132 187th St
Leavenworth
KS
66048
US**

Please provide your phone number: **n/a**

Please provide your email contact: **jdemaranville8@gmail.com**

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? **No**

Which of the following best describes you? (Check all that apply) **Resident in proposed service area**

I am providing comments related to the following application (comments must be filed individually for each project): **Charter Communications - Leavenworth County 5**

I am submitting comments to express: **Support for a project**

Please provide your **I fully support the much-needed installation of hardwired broadband**

comments in the text box below:

internet to all of Leavenworth County. This particular grant (Charter Communications - Leavenworth County 5) appears to be concentrated on unincorporated/rural Northeast Leavenworth County, so I will focus on this geographical area.

First we must address the largest issue - the vast majority of unincorporated Leavenworth County residents are totally unserved and without legitimate/reliable options when it comes to internet access. Most residents try to attempt to get by using fixed wireless, satellite, cellular hotspots, and cellular phones for internet access. These options all come with limitations and shortfalls. For example, when the Covid-19 pandemic began and many were forced to attend school and work from home, cellular data service was near non-existent and unusable. Due to the increased bandwidth demand, speed tests were literally at dial-up speeds (less than 1 mb/s) and even simple web pages were extremely slow or impossible to load. This problem went on daily for years, and is still experienced intermittently to this day. Users have also reported debilitating hardware and connectivity/signal issues with cellular devices and hotspots. On a broader scale, this lack of access also limits job opportunities to all residents of this area, as they are ineligible to work any work-from-home job, creating overall economic damage to our community.

In this particular area, we have a significant population of people, organizations, and businesses who will greatly benefit from hard-wired broadband internet access. In the grant area alone, there are four public school buildings (Easton USD 449), two fire stations, numerous public utility structures/infrastructure components (electric substations, water towers, pumps, valves, etc.), several small businesses, and numerous farms/ranches. This grant area is directly adjacent to a prominent military base - many military and civilian employees reside in the grant area and would benefit from the ability to work from home, creating cost-savings to the taxpayers. For example, I know someone who resides in the grant area, is a civilian employee at this base, and was essentially paid (on the taxpayer's dime) to not work due to not having broadband internet access at home while their co-workers worked from home (they all had reliable hard-wired internet access at their homes). This one example led to lost productivity and waste of taxpayer funds - I strongly believe it would be safe to infer that this was not the only example of such).

Another adversity facing this grant area is proximity to the Kansas City (KC) Metro Area. Leavenworth County is a member of the Mid-America Regional Council and should, by all counts, be included in the greater KC Metro Area. In this grant area, many residents enjoy living in a rural atmosphere while being a 10 to 15 minute drive from some necessities/some amenities (Leavenworth, Lansing, Atchison) and a 30 to 45 minute drive away from all other amenities in the metro area. Because of this, we have seen strong population growth over the years (especially in the rural areas). An issue showing it head, however, has been the struggle of infrastructure keeping up with the growth. The roads, water utilities, and electric utilities have been

improving over the years - it's time for internet providers to do the same.

In conclusion, I fully support, encourage, and demand the expansion of hardwired broadband internet access in Leavenworth County, especially in the Charter Communications - Leavenworth County 5 grant area. I appreciate the opportunity to speak and provide input on the vital subject of expanding hardwired broadband internet access.

Upload supporting documentation - multiple files should be submitted as a .ZIP file. n/a

By submitting the Public Comment Form (the "Form") and any supporting evidence, you attest that all information furnished is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that any attachments are free of malware or viruses. You also acknowledge that falsifying any information could result in legal action against you and will bar you from submitting public comments to this web site in the future. You authorize the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce (KOBD) to contact you if further information is needed. You expressly acknowledge and consent to some personal information, including your name, **JD**

address, phone, e-mail, organization you represent, and comments, being posted for public view on the Kansas Department of Commerce web site at www.kansascommerce.gov.

The KOBD will use its best efforts to redact any personal identifiable information outside of the above that is not considered in the public domain. By typing your name and date and by submitting the Form, you acknowledge, authorize, and consent to this Public Comment Privacy & Acknowledgments.
