



Oregon Broadband Office

775 Summer St NE, Suite 200

Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support for Internet Service Providers Applications to the Broadband Equity Access Deployment Program for the Silver Falls School District

Dear Oregon Broadband Office,

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Government (MWVCOG) enthusiastically supports grant applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operating in Marion County to secure funds through the Broadband, Access, Equity, Deployment (BEAD) Program. This grant would enable ISPs to deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure to serve rural residences and businesses that currently do not have access to internet in the Silver Falls School District, the principal focus of the BEAD program.

The MWVCOG is the Federally designated Economic Development District serving Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties. Part of our mission is to coordinate regional planning and development activities for our members, including enhancing access to critical services, such as broadband, to rural areas in the region. In 2023, MWVCOG staff helped establish the Mid-Willamette Valley Broadband Action Team, which includes representatives from Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, to promote the development of broadband infrastructure in areas currently lacking internet access.

Access to high-speed broadband internet is essential in ensuring the residences, businesses and communities of Marion County have access to the critical services they need to live healthy and successful lives. Large areas of the Silver Falls School District, especially rural areas, struggle with substandard broadband connectivity or no connection at all – inhibiting the ability to fully engage in online services such as education, healthcare, remote work and e-commerce. The 2020 Labor Day fires highlighted the critical importance of broadband access to public safety, emergency management response, and communication infrastructure resilience.

I encourage the Oregon Broadband Office to support this BEAD grant application to help Marion County ISPs bridge the digital divide, enhance economic growth and ensure the residences, businesses and communities of the Silver Falls School District have equitable access to reliable and affordable high-speed broadband internet.

McRae Carmichael,

Community Development Director, MWVCOG

County Commissioners
Kevin Cameron, Chair
Danielle Bethell
Colm Willis



Chief Administrative
Officer
Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Oregon Broadband Office
775 Summer St NE, Suite 200
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Marion County Board of Commissioners Support of Internet Service Providers Applications to the Broadband Equity Access Deployment Program

Oregon Broadband Office,

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in support of grant applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operating in Marion County to secure funds through the Broadband, Access, Equity, Deployment (BEAD) Program. This grant would enable ISPs to deploy fiber based broadband infrastructure to serve rural residences and businesses that currently do not have access to internet in the Silver Falls School District.

Access to high-speed internet is essential in ensuring our communities have access to the critical services they need to live healthy and successful lives. Numerous residences and businesses in the Silver Falls School District are unserved with no access to the internet – inhibiting their ability to fully engage in online services such as education, healthcare and remote work. The 2020 Labor Day fires highlighted the critical importance of broadband access to public safety, emergency management response, and communication infrastructure resilience. The expansion of fiber infrastructure will improve the livability of our communities and our ability to serve the public.

We encourage the Oregon Broadband Office to support this BEAD grant application to help Marion County ISPs bridge the digital divide and ensure the rural citizens, communities and businesses of the Silver Falls School District have access to affordable and reliable fiber based broadband service. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin Cameron in blue ink.

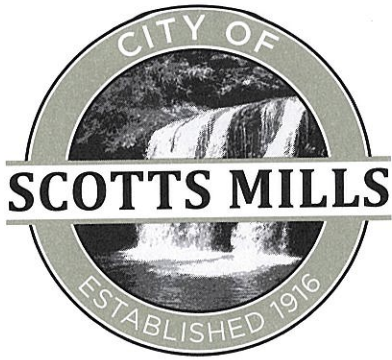
Kevin Cameron
Chair

Handwritten signature of Danielle Bethell in blue ink.

Danielle Bethell
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Colm Willis in blue ink.

Colm Willis
Commissioner



July 19, 2024

Oregon Broadband Office
775 Summer St NE, Suite 200
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support for Internet Service Providers Applications to the Broadband Equity Access Deployment Program for the Silver Falls School District

Dear Oregon Broadband Office,

Scotts Mills enthusiastically supports applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operating in Marion County to secure funds through the Broadband, Access, Equity and Deployment (BEAD) Program. This grant would enable ISPs to deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure to serve rural residences, farms and businesses that currently do not have access to internet in the Silver Falls School District, the principal focus of the BEAD program.

Access to high-speed broadband internet is essential in ensuring the families, residences and businesses, both inside and outside the Scotts Mills Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), have access to the critical services they need to live healthy and successful lives. Large areas south of the Scotts Mills UGB struggle with substandard broadband connectivity or no connection at all – inhibiting the ability of our families, residences and businesses to fully engage in online services such as education, healthcare, remote work and e-commerce. The Covid-19 pandemic starkly highlighted these challenges and barriers many of our citizens must deal with. The 2020 Labor Day fires also highlighted the critical importance of broadband access to public safety, emergency management response, and communication infrastructure resilience. The expansion of broadband infrastructure will improve the livability of our communities and our ability to serve them.

We encourage the Oregon Broadband Office to support this BEAD grant application to help Marion County ISPs bridge the digital divide, enhance economic growth and ensure the families, farms and businesses outside of the Scotts Mills UGB and in the Silver Falls School District have equitable access to reliable and affordable high-speed broadband internet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Fournier".

Robin Fournier,
City Manager, Scotts Mills

July 09, 2024

Oregon Broadband Office
775 Summer St NE, Suite 200
Salem, Oregon 97301

President
Erik Andersson

2023-2024
Executive Council

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Colm Wills
Marion County
Commissioner

RE: Letter of Support for Internet Service Provider Applications to the Broadband Equity Access Deployment Program for the Silver Falls School District

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), I am writing in support of grant applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operating in Marion County to secure funds through the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. This grant would enable ISPs to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure to serve rural farms and agricultural businesses that currently do not have access to internet service in the Silver Falls School District.

SEDCOR is a nonprofit organization working with private and public partners to enhance and diversify the Mid-Willamette Valley economy, one of the most fertile and agriculturally productive regions in the world. SEDCOR is dedicated to helping businesses in our region to expand, invest, and grow. Agriculture is the heart of a regional economy that includes food and beverage manufacturing, logistics, and AgTec sectors. The family farms and agricultural businesses of Marion County need to be innovative, adaptive, and creative to ensure their ability to compete in national and international markets. Without high-speed broadband internet, it is increasingly difficult for these businesses to compete in the rapidly evolving markets of the 21st century.

We encourage the Oregon Broadband Office to support this BEAD grant application to help Marion County ISPs bridge the digital divide and ensure the family farms and agricultural businesses of the Silver Falls School District have access to reliable fiber based broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erik Andersson
President



CITY OF SILVERTON

410 N Water Street | Silverton, Oregon 97381

City of Silverton
Jason Freilinger
Mayor
410 N Water Street
Silverton, OR 97381
jfreilinger@silverton.or.us | (503) 873-5321

August 6, 2024

Oregon Broadband Office
775 Summer St NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Oregon Broadband Office,

On behalf of the City of Silverton, I am writing to express our strong support for the upcoming Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. This initiative, which will allocate nearly \$698,000,000 in funding to support broadband construction projects across Oregon, is vital for delivering high-speed broadband to locations currently lacking access, both unserved and underserved.

The City of Silverton is advocating for the inclusion of the Silver Falls School District within the BEAD program. Significant portions of our district are currently without reliable broadband access. This lack of connectivity affects numerous residences and businesses outside the Silverton city limits, creating disparities in educational opportunities, economic growth, and overall quality of life.

Reliable high-speed internet is essential for our community's development. It enables students to participate in remote learning, supports local businesses in competing in the digital marketplace, and ensures that residents can access online services. The BEAD program's funding would be transformative for our area, helping bridge the digital divide and foster greater equity and access for all. We urge you to consider this letter as a formal endorsement from the City of Silverton for the BEAD program's efforts.

Sincerely,

Jason Freilinger
Mayor, City of Silverton