



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Dear Oregon Broadband Office,

The Yamhill County Commissioners would like to express their support for the City of Sherwood's Broadband Deployment Program grant application.

Yamhill County lies on the west side of the upper middle part of the Willamette Valley and is bounded by Washington, Clackamas, Polk, Marion, and Tillamook Counties. The history and characteristics of the region have had an impact on broadband quality and availability. The County's varied landscape encompasses urban and rural areas with diverse economic characteristics and conditions. In general, broadband availability and quality can vary depending on county location.

High-speed broadband constitutes an essential utility, critical to the safety and social and economic development, and advancement of Yamhill County residents and businesses. As a result, Yamhill County wants to foster the deployment of broadband access to unserved and underserved locations and supports the City of Sherwood's proposal to develop and expand broadband in Yamhill County.

The City of Sherwood has operated a municipal broadband service for 20 years and is able to provide low-cost, high-speed service to residents, businesses, and public agencies. Accessible high-speed internet is a crucial economic development tool for any community. Unfortunately, rural areas outside of Sherwood and Newberg are disadvantaged by unreliable and expensive broadband internet service.

Over the last three years, via community outreach and financially feasible projects, Sherwood Broadband has extended service to several rural, unserved areas. Through outreach and new FCC mapping data, they have uncovered additional adjoining areas that are equally unserved, but not financially feasible to construct. In preparation for State and Federal broadband grants, Sherwood Broadband has done great planning and engineering work to make these unserved areas ideal candidates for grant opportunities.

In conclusion, we fully support the City of Sherwood's grant application to bring high-speed, low-cost broadband services to these unserved areas. The Broadband Deployment Program would allow Sherwood Broadband to offer service to over 800 households and ubiquitous coverage to those living South of Sherwood and East of Newberg. The positive economic impact would be felt for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Lindsay Berschauer
Chair


Kit Johnston
Vice-Chair


Mary Starrett
Commissioner
Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
4/25/24 by Board Order
24-119