

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

September 29, 2022

Alan Davidson

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

I am pleased to support Dairyland Power Cooperative's (DPC) application for the Middle Mile Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. If awarded, funding will support DPC's Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project to bring about much-needed middle mile infrastructure to predominately rural communities in southeast Minnesota, northern Iowa, southwest Wisconsin, and northwest Wisconsin.

DPC, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, was formed in December 1941 as a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative. Headquartered in La Crosse, Wisconsin, DPC provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of more than a half-million consumer-members in the four-state service area of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota.

DPC's Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project aims to significantly encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure and connect unserved and underserved areas, offering equal opportunity for internet service providers to connect to last mile infrastructure in a cost-effective manner, ultimately promoting economic prosperity and closing the digital divide. DPC is committed to having a positive impact in Wisconsin and the Midwest by implementing middle mile infrastructure that will increase competition among local internet service providers, and subsequently lower costs and offer high-speed options for citizens.

I strongly support efforts to strengthen our internet infrastructure to better serve Wisconsin's rural and underserved communities, and bridge the digital divide for people in all parts of our country. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to DPC's application. Please keep staff in my office updated on the progress of this application by email at [projects\\_grants@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov). Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator