



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR JOHN WIIK, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS KARR, CO-CHAIR

May 22, 2019

Steve Westra, Commissioner
Governor's Office of Economic Development
711 East Wells Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Rural Broadband

Dear Commissioner Westra:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2019 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on May 22, 2019.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2019 Legislature approved Senate Bill 180, which provides five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in general funds to be transferred to the rural broadband fund for the purpose of expanding rural broadband. It is the intent of the Committee that the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) report to the Interim JCA at the November 2019 meeting on the application process for these funds and the intended outcomes. It is also the intent of the Committee that the GOED provide an annual update of recipients of the rural broadband funding and the uses of the funds to the Committee each January until the funding is fully expended.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Senator John Wiik
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Representative Chris Karr
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Liza Clark, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management