



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

May 27, 2020

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

### **Letter of Intent Regarding Rural Broadband Funding**

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 2020 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on May 27, 2020.

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.

During the 2020 Legislative session, the Legislature passed HB1189 which provided \$5,000,000 in general funds for the purpose of expanding rural access to broadband services in the State of South Dakota. The JCA requests the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) provide a report no later than November 1, 2020 outlining at a minimum the following items:

- List of grantees and the dollar amount awarded;
- List of project improvement(s) and tentative completion date by grantee as part of the funding award;
- Location and coverage service area of improvement(s) by grantee as part of the funding award;
- Number of new people obtaining access to new broadband services by location; and
- List of applicants not approved for funding and an explanation for not approving the funding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Representative Chris Karr  
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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Senator John Wiik  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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