

TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

Amy Willis (2020 – 2021)  
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Chair, Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)

May 18, 2020

Office of the Federal Co-Chair  
Northern Borders Regional Commission  
53 Pleasant Street, Suite 1501  
Concord, NH 03301

Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary  
Kristie Farnham, NBRC Program Manager  
VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development  
One National Life Drive  
Deane C. Davis Building, 6th Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Re: Letter of Support for CVFiber's Grant Application for Pilot High-Speed Internet Project Funding

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a letter of support for CVFiber's application for a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program Grant for the construction of a pilot high-speed internet project as part of CVFiber's Phase I efforts as referenced in its recently completed feasibility study.

The Town of East Montpelier is a member of the CVFiber Communications Union District. The town is one of a number of communities in central Vermont that suffer both from a dearth of viable, affordable options for even basic internet service and from a complete lack of opportunity for high-speed broadband outside of very narrow corridors of service availability. Access to high-speed broadband is a prerequisite for our residents and businesses to participate and effectively compete in modern commerce. The reality, as the current COVID-19 pandemic slammed home with authority, is that such access has become a requirement to participate in modern life. Measures to support stay-at-home mandates, such as remote working for employees, remote learning for students, and access to telehealth opportunities, all require good internet connectivity. The future vitality of our community depends on the availability of high-speed internet service. The current options are simply inadequate. The need for improvement is urgent.

We wholeheartedly support the CVFiber application for an NBRC Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program Grant to enable construction of the Phase I pilot project. This grant will help CVFiber move forward in its effort to bring high-speed broadband internet availability to our entire community. We encourage you to look favorably on the CVFiber funding request.

Sincerely,

Seth B. Gardner  
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard