

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2207**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

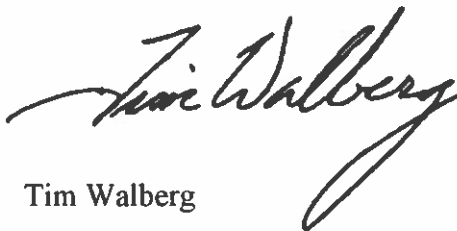
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Broadband Wired Infrastructure Expansion Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Branch, located at 31 Division St, Coldwater, MI 49036. The funding would be used to extend fiber-optic cable to thousands of unserved and underserved locations in rural Branch County to ensure availability of ultra-high-speed fiber broadband services to residents, businesses, and community organizations. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because high-speed internet access in rural areas is linked to increased job and population growth, and higher rates of new business formation and home values. The locations included in this plan are high-cost and deploying fiber without additional public funding would be economically prohibitive.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 779 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress