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April 13, 2021

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

On behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to support Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications' (PST) Lassen County Broadband Project to provide necessary high-speed internet service to some of the hardest-to-reach areas of southern Lassen County.

PST is seeking funding for the project through the USDA ReConnect program, as part of a Member Designated Community Funding Project. PST has been expanding broadband throughout central and southern Lassen County through California Public Utilities Commission grants as well as its own funds since 2010.

This project is vitally important to bridge the digital divide for more than 500 households, and would provide broadband service with speeds of up to 1 Gigabyte per second to unserved areas in central and southern Lassen County.

The project would enable strong economic development opportunities for our area, including encouraging more of Sierra Army Depot and FCI Herlong's commuter-based workforce to put down roots in our region. There are also many educational opportunities available through broadband service. Compared to urban areas with high-speed internet service access, parents and students in rural areas are at an academic disadvantage. The project would also support telemedicine and emergency personnel dependent on internet-based communications. Many government services are increasingly becoming available only online, and the pandemic has heightened the need for broadband access in rural areas.

We have been assured the project is shovel-ready and will be completed within the designated timelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Albaugh, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla