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December 17, 2019

Broadband Fund
Department of Regulatory Agencies
1560 Broadway, Suite 1550
Denver, CO 80202

Colorado High Cost Fund Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Routt County Board of County Commissioners we wish to express our strong support for Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) and its subsidiary Luminare Broadband in its application for funding to deploy broadband service in rural South Routt County, specifically the communities of Stagecoach and Lynx Pass.

With funding support, YVEA/Luminare will be able to provide much needed internet connectivity to an area of our County and the state that has been perpetually underserved – nearly all areas of which fall below the federal definition of broadband service of 25 Mbps download and 3Mbps upload, with some having no service at all. This reality has negatively affected our small rural communities – our businesses, our students, and our essential services. Because of this lack of connectivity, we fear this area is being left behind, and failing to thrive.

YVEA has powered the communities of Routt County for over 75 years. As such, they have a strong, proven relationship with the County and our residents know we can depend on their services. We strongly support YVEA/Luminare's application for funding so they are able to deploy Gigabit broadband service to the citizens and businesses of Stagecoach and Lynx Pass.

Respectfully,
ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair