



Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
454 County Road 804
Cullman, Alabama



February 7, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

Let it be known that we fully support increasing the availability of internet services in our area. Our department relies on internet connectivity for reporting, education and training, ordering supplies, updating software, and communication to our volunteers and the community we serve. We are currently limited to wireless internet with no other options available to us. This often leaves us without the ability to view video for training purposes or without the ability to quickly download a software update for lifesaving equipment such as an AED. As a volunteer organization, the most valuable resource we have is the time of our volunteers. Limited speed and connectivity reduces the potential that we can obtain from our volunteers. A faster internet connection would greatly improve the work that many of our volunteers do on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

For example, if one of our volunteers is dedicating their time after work to upload a required software update for one of our AEDs, our current speed can take 10 – 15 minutes or more to download the update. If we were able to obtain a faster service, we could reduce this time to a few seconds. Saving a volunteer 10 minutes of their time is an unmeasurable benefit. Making sure our lifesaving equipment is up to date is priceless.

In an industry where seconds count, we are left with almost no speed in our internet options. We would greatly appreciate your consideration in approving the expansion of internet availability in our area, not just for us, but the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Jeff W. Byars, NREMT, BCPA
President and EMS Captain
Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
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